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HOW TO

## Breed, Manage and Exhibit

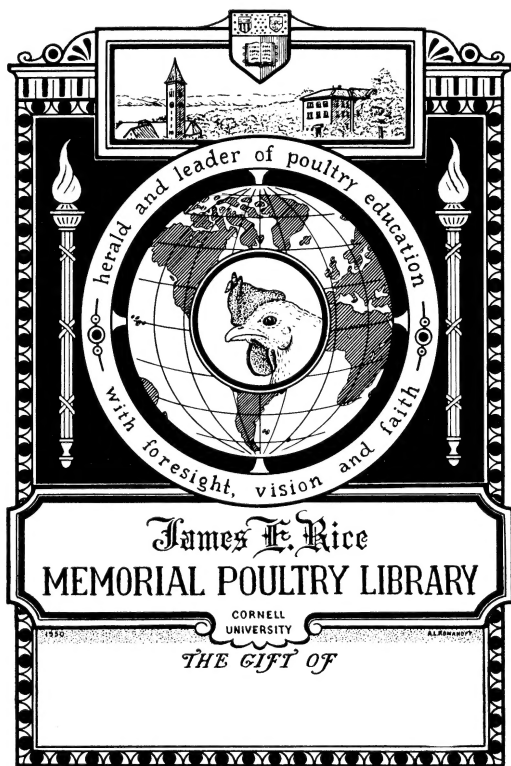
By

**A. E. ELLETT**

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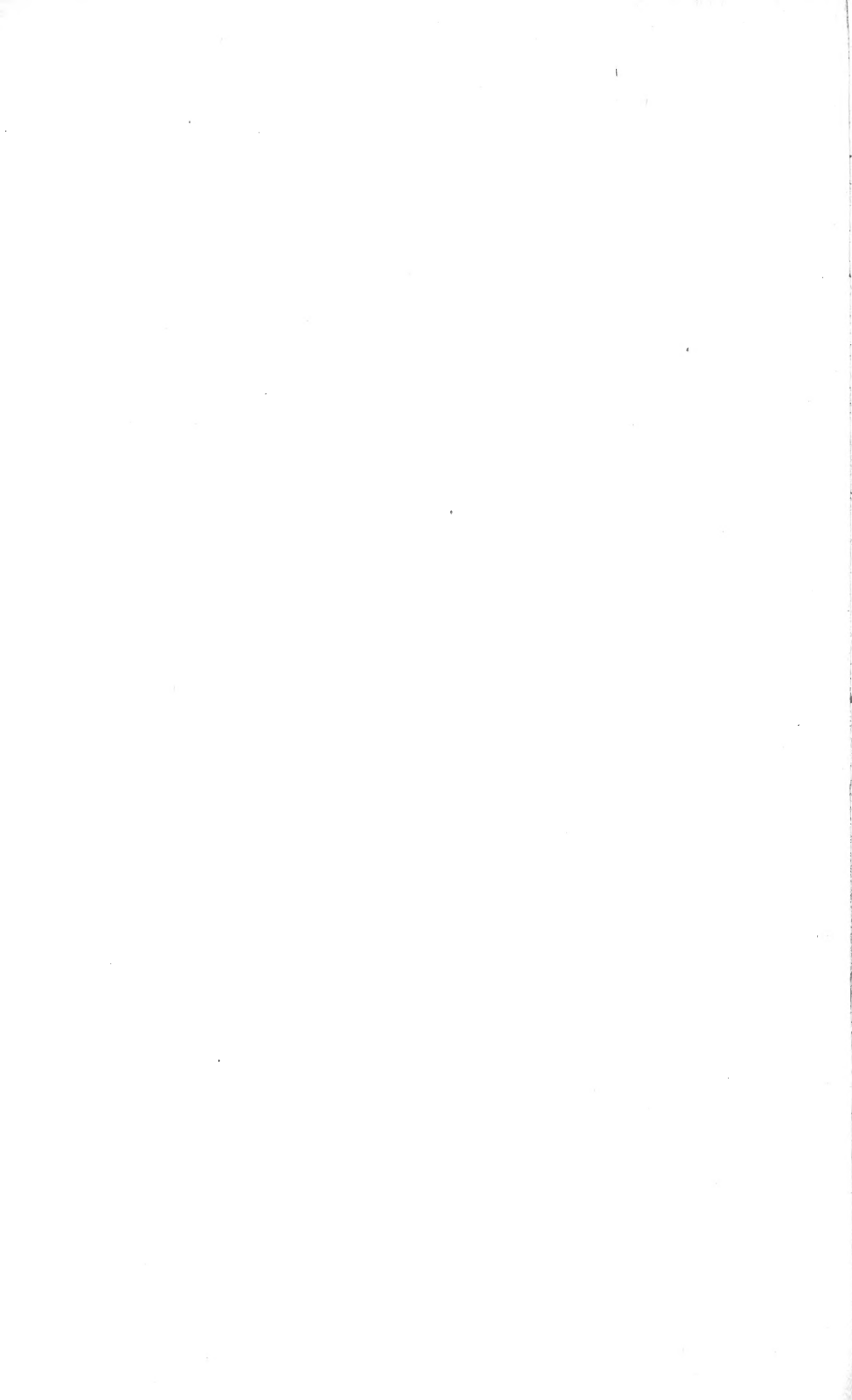
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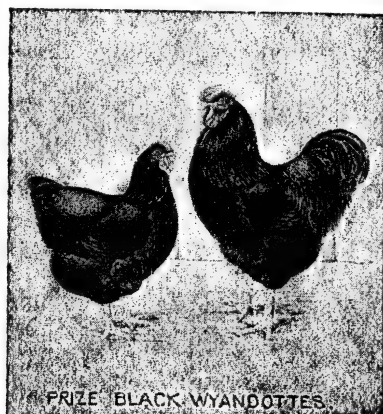
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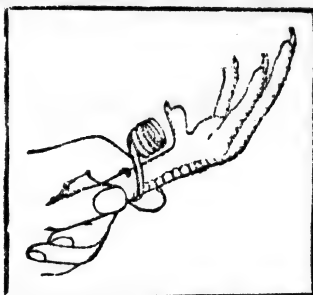
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# MODERN WYANDOTTES

HOW TO  
Breed, Manage and Exhibit

By A. E. ELLETT

LONDON:

Published by the Poultry Press, Ltd., at the offices of  
"The Poultry World," 154, Fleet Street, E.C.

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## PREFACE.

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IN placing this, my initial venture as an author, before the public, I lay no claim to literary merit or polished style, but have endeavoured to give lovers of Wyandottes the benefit of my long experience with the different varieties of this most popular breed of poultry.

During the last few years most rapid strides have been made in the Wyandotte Fancy, and I have striven to bring this little work right up-to-date so that it may be of real assistance to those who are just commencing their career as breeders of one of the most handsome, varied, and popular breeds.

In sending my little work forth I do so in the hope that it may further the interest already shown in Wyandottes, and assist struggling amateurs and young fanciers in their efforts towards success.

A. E. ELLETT.

Waterfall Poultry Farm,  
Southgate, N.



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## CHAPTER I.

### Introductory.

THE Wyandotte is one of the most handsome, even as it is the most popular, breed of poultry which has come to us from America. Writing in 1888, when not a great deal was known about the breed, that giant of the past, the late Lewis Wright, said: "We think them likely to become very popular, supplying as they do, along with admirable useful qualities, a distinct gap which was left by the want of the beautiful laced marking on any really large fowl." Mr. Wright was then referring to the Silvers, which were the forerunners of the many varieties of the breed which we now possess. Could he but see the manner in which his prophetic words have been realised, how pleased he would be.

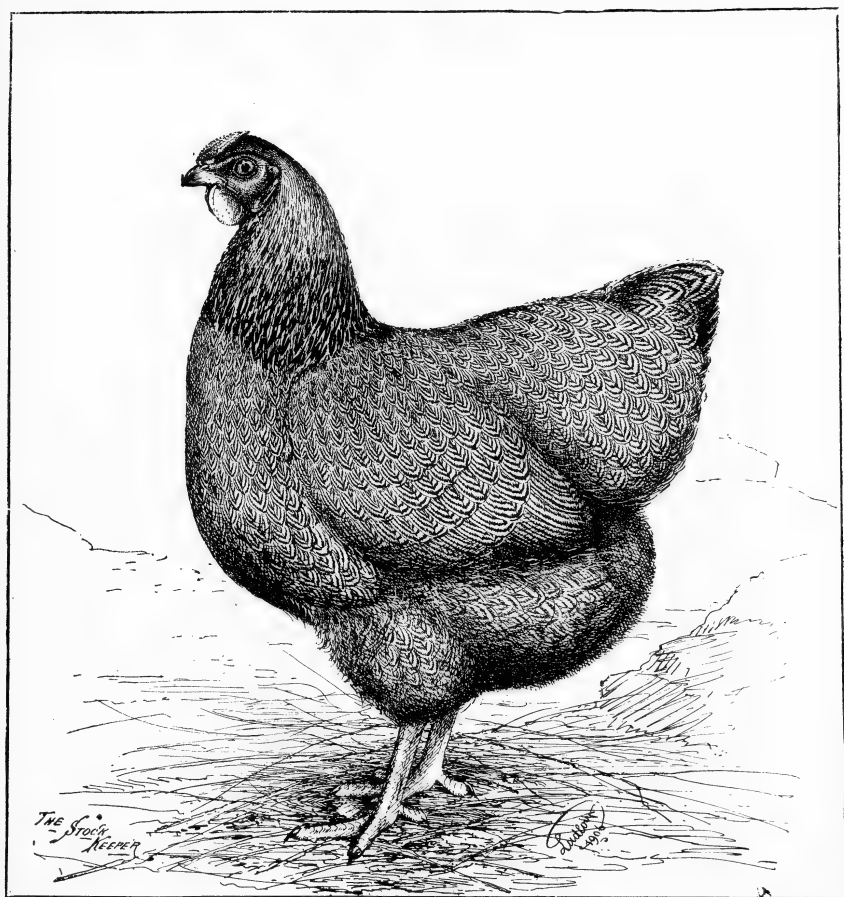
It was about the year 1883 that Wyandottes first made their appearance in England, one of the first importers being Mr. J. Pilling, of Ashton, near Chester, but for some seven or eight years previous had they been known in America. The name Wyandotte was suggested by Mr. F. A. Hondlette, of Boston, who, with Mr. Carlisle, of Providence, R.I., had much to do with the breed in the early days. Previous to this the breed had been known, amongst other titles, as American Sebrights, owing to the fact that the marking at that time partook very much of the Sebright character, and also because the Sebright Bantam had been used in its production. It is also said that the Silver, Polish, the Silver-spangled Hamburg, the Dark Brahma, and an American breed known as "Chittagongs," were also used in the making of the Wyandotte.

Once all parties in America had agreed upon the common name of Wyandotte, the breed went forward with a rush, and from the Silver-laced, which was the first member of the family, have been produced the Gold-laced, Buff-laced, Blue-laced, Violet-laced, White-laced (the latter being the latest variety, and we are proud to say made in England), the Cuckoo, the Black,

the White, the Blue, and the Buff in self colours, the Partridge, Silver Pencilled and Columbian in the pencilled varieties, and in broken colours we have the Pile, the latest of all varieties, and of which I am the originator. Thus the Wyandotte has given us fifteen different varieties of exhibition birds, a record unequalled by any other breed, and which warrants the assertion that the Wyandotte is the most popular breed of poultry known to the British fancier.

In its general style the Wyandotte is of distinctly Brahma character, although much smarter, more active, and more compact, yet being very quiet and tractable, handsome in appearance, a layer of a good-sized brown egg, a quick grower, a more than useful table bird, being very plump and cobby without a lot of useless offal. The hens are splendid winter layers, and most excellent mothers, being very careful and gentle both with their eggs when sitting and their chicks whilst they require the care and attention of a mother. High-class exhibition specimens command a ready sale at all times, and there is a regular demand for reliable breeding stock and eggs.

Not only is the Wyandotte popular with fanciers, but its praises are loudly sung by those who consider poultry keeping from the utility standpoint only, especially those who are purveyors of eggs. For it has been proved over and over again that as a producer of large brown eggs in the winter time there is no variety to beat the White Wyandotte, and go where one will from one end of the country to the other you will find Wyandottes and their crosses amongst the poultry kept by our farmers and cottagers. Again, by reason of its early maturity and short tender meat, the Wyandotte finds favour with those who need table-birds, the objection to its yellow legs being almost a thing of the past. To those who consider any breed of fowl from the utility aspect there can be no two opinions as to the value of the Wyandotte, for it is indeed a money bringer. It will thrive on any soil, and wax and grow fat, so to speak, where other breeds would starve or die. In a word it is a good all-round fowl.



THE FAMOUS £75 PARTRIDGE WYANDOTTE PULLET.

Bred and exhibited by Mr. John Wharton, Honeycott Farm, Hawes, Yorks., for whom she won many prizes, including Sp. and 1st Dairy, where she was claimed at catalogue price—£75.





## CHAPTER II.

### **General Management.**

THE first consideration when one commences poultry keeping is the question of accommodation. Those fanciers who are also farmers haven't to consider this matter so carefully as those who dwell in the suburbs of our towns. The circumstances under which poultry are kept differ so widely that it is impossible to deal with the question of Housing in a hard and fast manner. But I will try to deal with the question generally, so that those who live either in country or town may be guided by the general principles which I enumerate.

In the first place the houses should be strongly and firmly put together, and be of not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. boarding, tongued and grooved, which should be covered with ordinary felt and well tarred, or else with the patent asphaltic felt. For the farmer or larger fancier with a number of houses, I should give the former preference, for the townsman with only one or two houses and not much accommodation or convenience I should give the preference to the latter. Provision should be made for light and ventilation, but care should be taken to avoid draughts. If the houses are covered all round with felt there can be no draughts coming through cracks and crevices, and if the ventilators are placed well over the heads of the birds few cases of cold or roup will be known. The house most favoured is that which has an open wire front and is fitted with a sliding shutter.

The perches should be about twelve or eighteen inches from the floor, not more, because hens sometimes drop their eggs from the perches, and there is less chance of their being broken when the perches are near the floor than when they are high up. The nest boxes should be so arranged that they are easily get-at-able, and easily removed for cleaning.

The floor of the house should be covered with loose litter of some kind. In the country wheat hulls, bracken, short cut straw, and other things will come in handy, but the town or suburban fanciers will find these difficult

to obtain, but a most excellent substitute can be found in the specially prepared Poultry Peat Moss. This not only makes a most excellent floor covering, but it acts as a disinfectant, and serves the purposes of a dust bath as well. Its absorbent properties are great, and after it has served its purpose in the fowl-house is most useful in the garden. The houses should be well creosoted or lime-washed at least twice a year, in the spring and autumn, and the droppings, which should be collected on a shelf under the perch, should be removed as often as possible, the more frequent the better. The houses, whether fixed with runs attached or in open fields, should, if possible, face south or south-east, and be in as sheltered a position as possible.

If the birds have a grass run not much will be needed in the way of green food, but the suburban fancier with his small fixed pen will need to give a regular supply of this commodity. Any ordinary vegetable will serve this purpose, and when green food is not procurable mangolds or swedes will answer the purpose. The great thing in confined runs is to give the birds variety.

If fowls are to be made to pay their way they must be well fed. Feeding plays a most important part in the welfare of a stock, whether it be kept for utility or fancy purposes. The best food is the cheapest. Little and good should be the motto for the fowl shed. Fowls require feeding with good, sound, nourishing food, but they do not need to be fed to repletion. At each feeding time the birds should be left in such a state that they could do with a bit more. Grain and insect life are the chief natural foods of fowls, and although the former is easily given when the birds are confined, the latter is more difficult to obtain. Still, by a careful and systematical ringing of the changes of different kinds of grain, meal, dried meat, green bone, etc., the poultry keeper in town may easily provide his birds with a varied menu, and variety is needed, for if the birds are fed week in and week out upon the same kind of food they naturally become tired of it, and it ceases to have a beneficial effect.

Whether the birds have a free range or not the first feed in the morning should be a warm meal mash. Pea meal, bean meal, oat meal, meat meal, clover meal, Sussex ground oats, pollard, sharps or middlings, bran, and any of the prepared poultry foods may all be used,

and the changes so rung that no two mornings may the feed be the same. The food should be given in a crumbly state, not too dry, and yet not clinging together like a lump of dough. Butcher's scraps, bullocks' liver or graves may be boiled, cut up fine, and with the liquor mixed with the meal occasionally.

When birds have a free range it is best to let them forage all day, and not give them a mid-day meal, but in confined runs a little corn should be thrown amongst the litter at mid-day.

The last feed at night should be hard grain. Wheat, buckwheat, oats, and maize may all be used. The latter sparingly, only where the birds have free range, and never used for the Silver-laced, Silver Pencilled, and White varieties during the time of Moulting. It is impossible to lay down a hard and fast rule of how much food the birds should be given, so much depends on the conditions under which they are kept. In the North birds will eat more than in the South, because the body requires more heat, and the keen air gives an appetite which the more balmy winds of the South do not. Again, birds foraging in fields and woods find a lot of food, and do not need so much as those which are confined. The only rule which can be given is: Watch your birds feeding, and as soon as some of the flock begin to cease feeding stop throwing the corn down. With the morning meal, when the birds' crops are all empty after the night's fast, a rule may be more generally observed, and that is to give a good handful for each two birds, that is a lump about as large as a cricket ball.

Important as is the feeding, the drinking is not one whit the less. A plentiful supply of clean fresh water should always be within reach of the birds, and the troughs should be washed out every day. In cold and damp weather a little sulphate of iron, which is a most excellent tonic and braces the system, should be given in the water.

Grit is most needful to the welfare of fowls, and they must have it, not only to keep them in health and secure the best results from the food given them, but also to assist in keeping the egg basket full. Birds that are provided with good sharp flint grit lay far more eggs than those which are not.

The eggs should be collected at least once a day, in winter more often, especially should there be frost about.

An egg card register should be fixed in each house, so that the total of eggs collected may be noted each day. The particulars afterwards being transferred to a more permanent record.

When birds are at liberty they will themselves find dry places to use as dust baths, but in confined runs such must be given them. A large open box, half filled with road dust, ashes, and fine earth in equal proportions is best, and it should be renewed from time to time.

Some birds are dirty in their habits, and leave droppings in the nest boxes. Therefore when the eggs are collected any droppings which may be in the boxes should be at once removed, or else the eggs will be soiled and require washing. Nest boxes harbour vermin if at all neglected, therefore they should be kept scrupulously clean. Good clean straw is the best material for the nest, but if it cannot be obtained, good wool, hay, or very finely ground peat moss may be used. A little sulphur, insect, or carbolic powder may be dusted about them occasionally with the object of keeping down fleas and lice. In the summer time, when these pests are most prevalent, the perch ends and their resting places should be painted once a week with paraffin, turpentine, or creosote, and when the birds are moulting, the loose feathers should be collected pretty frequently.

In small runs the ground should be forked over at least once a week. Every now and then the runs should be rested, and sown with field mustard. This will not only sweeten them, but provide valuable green food for the birds.



GOLD WYANDOTTE PULLET.

1st Chester, 1st Tattenhall, 1st Narbeth, 2nd Leeds, etc.

Bred and exhibited by Mr. W. L. Horbury, Elm House, Bromborough.



## CHAPTER III.

### **Breeding.**

WHEN the birds have been selected for breeding, the hens or pullets should be put in the run first and allowed to get used to it before the cock bird is introduced. In mating it is wise to mate cockerels to hens and cocks to pullets. The cocks and cockerels should not be allowed to run with the hens or pullets from the end of the moult, as when the two sexes run together all the winter the early eggs are not so fertile. Cocks and cockerels intended for breeding should not be introduced to their mates until about a fortnight or three weeks before the first lot of eggs are required for sitting. In a general way six or eight hens may be run in a pen, but do not breed with too many hens in one pen, as it is much better to breed from a few good ones than to make up a pen with inferior birds. Care should be taken that every bird used for breeding is strong and vigorous, as stamina in the breeding stock is most essential if the best results are to be obtained in the show pen.

If hens are used it is wise to set two at the same time, as should a number of the eggs not prove fertile the remainder may all be placed under one hen, and the other given a fresh lot, thus saving much time in the getting of the second brood. Further, if later on it is found that some of the eggs are addled, or that the chicks are dead in shell, or if some of the chicks get trodden down during hatching, all can be given to one hen, and another sitting given to the other hen.

Eggs should be tested on the seventh day, and if it is early in the season you will probably find a large number unfertile. In very dry weather, especially if the hens are set in boxes in a loft, the eggs do not chip well. This in some measure may be remedied by soaking the eggs in warm water the day previous to the day of hatching. This will soften the inner membrane of the shell and assist the chick in making its way into the world. Some breeders sprinkle the nest with water once

a day for the last week of incubation in preference to soaking the eggs. The best place for a nest is a hollow in the ground, which should be lined with straw or hay, well-bruised and rubbed soft.

Each morning during the time of incubation the hens should be lifted off the nests, given a feed of hard corn, wheat for preference, a drink, some grit, and allowed to dust themselves. Whilst they are off the nests the eggs should be examined to see if any have been cracked, chipped, or broken, if an accident has happened the damaged egg should be removed. Should it happen that an egg has been broken the hen must be examined to see if any of it is adhering to her breast feathers, and if so she should be well sponged with soap and warm water, whilst the eggs should all be carefully washed in warm water of about 100 degrees. The hens should be off the nests about fifteen or twenty minutes each morning. Always keep the nest clean. Never test the eggs more than once. Many eggs are spoilt by fussing about and testing them repeatedly. Never put more eggs under a hen than she can cover comfortably, rather put one less than one more.

Should it happen that a hen is away from her nest for a long time, owing to being shut out, don't throw the eggs away. Let her go on them. It takes a lot to destroy life in an egg.

It is wise to leave the chickens with the hen in the nest box for the first twenty-four hours of their existence. Then they may be removed to a coop. They will do all the better if the coop is inside a shed for the first three or four days.



## CHAPTER IV.

### **Rearing Chickens.**

It is now generally recognised that chickens do not require feeding for at least thirty-six hours after hatching, in fact, some experiments which have been made rather point to the fact that if they are not fed for forty-eight hours they do even better than if fed earlier. I have heard of chickens not being fed for the first seventy-two hours of their life on this earth, and then doing remarkably well. I do not, however, recommend my readers to practise that plan.

The first food given to newly-hatched chicks should be one of the specially prepared biscuit meals. These meals are carefully prepared, and contain all that is needed for a young chick. This first food should be placed in the front of the coop so that the hen may reach it, and she will soon induce her family to eat. Give very little food at a time, and never allow any to remain. Many a case of diarrhoea has been caused by sour food picked up outside the coop. For the first week feed the chicks every two hours during the day, starting as soon as it is daylight and again at night by lamplight. If you want your chicks to grow into prize-winners you must be regular and often in your feeding. After the first week every three hours will do till they are a month old, and then every four hours will suffice. If it can be obtained milk is a good thing for chickens, and they should be allowed a drink three or four times a day, but it should not be allowed to remain in the run, it should be given fresh each time, and removed when the chicks have satisfied their thirst. I use large quantities of milk amongst my own chickens.

On the fourth day the diet may be changed, and the biscuit meal or chicken meal mixed into a crumbly mass as before, and should be given with a little fine dried meat or meat meal added to it, but very little, or you may induce diarrhoea. "Dry chick feed" of some kind should also be given now, alternating with the soft

food. Water should always be within reach of the chickens, but let it be renewed two or three times a day. It is well to remember that grit is as necessary to a growing chick as it is to an adult fowl. A little boiled rice may be given once or twice a week to keep the bowels in order and ward off diarrhœa. As the feathers begin to grow a little flowers of sulphur should be dusted in the food once or twice a week, a teaspoonful will be enough for forty chicks. Chopped onions are splendid things for the blood, and promoting feather growth. Above all remember that with growing chicks variety in food is the key to successful rearing.

The coops should be moved to fresh ground every day so as to keep everything sweet and clean. If it is impossible to change the coop on to fresh ground each day, it is a good plan to keep the run and coop well supplied with dry earth, road sweepings, and ashes, which should be three or four inches thick. The hen will have done with the chicks when they are about six weeks old, but if she is quiet and gentle she may in the early part of the season be kept with her family for seven or eight weeks, they will be all the better for it, but later on six weeks is quite long enough.

When about ten or twelve weeks old the cockerels should be separated from the pullets. They thrive better when so dealt with. At this time four feeds a day will be sufficient, but let the feeding be generous in quality, sufficient in quantity, and regular. Let them have plenty of grit and fresh water, and don't forget the dust bath. They may now be given some freshly-ground green bone daily, it will help them along and assist in the growth of bone and muscle. When the sexes are separated is the time to sort out the weakly, delicate ones. Kill them off. It will give the others more room to grow, and save the corn bill. Above all, weakly chicks are apt to encourage vermin and disease, and the whole flock may become affected if they are kept about.

If the chicks are on a grass run they will not require any vegetable food beyond the chopped onions previously mentioned, which may be given at any time and under any circumstances. If, however, the chicks are in a small confined run green vegetables such as cabbage, lettuce, or garden refuse should be given them every day. It is now that their constitutions have to

be built up, and any neglect during the early days of their existence means trouble and loss later on.

Some breeders bring their chicks up for the first month on "Dry Chick Feed" entirely, and give no soft food until the fifth or sixth week. The system is one which has obtained widespread support during the last few years. Its great merit, say its advocates, is that chickens so reared suffer very little, if at all, from diarrhoea. Water, of course, is given from the time of hatching onward. Personally I prefer a mixed diet, as the soft food helps the chicks to feather more quickly than when dry food only is used. For those who cannot spare a great deal of time to attend to their chicks then the dry feeding system has advantages.

## CHAPTER V.

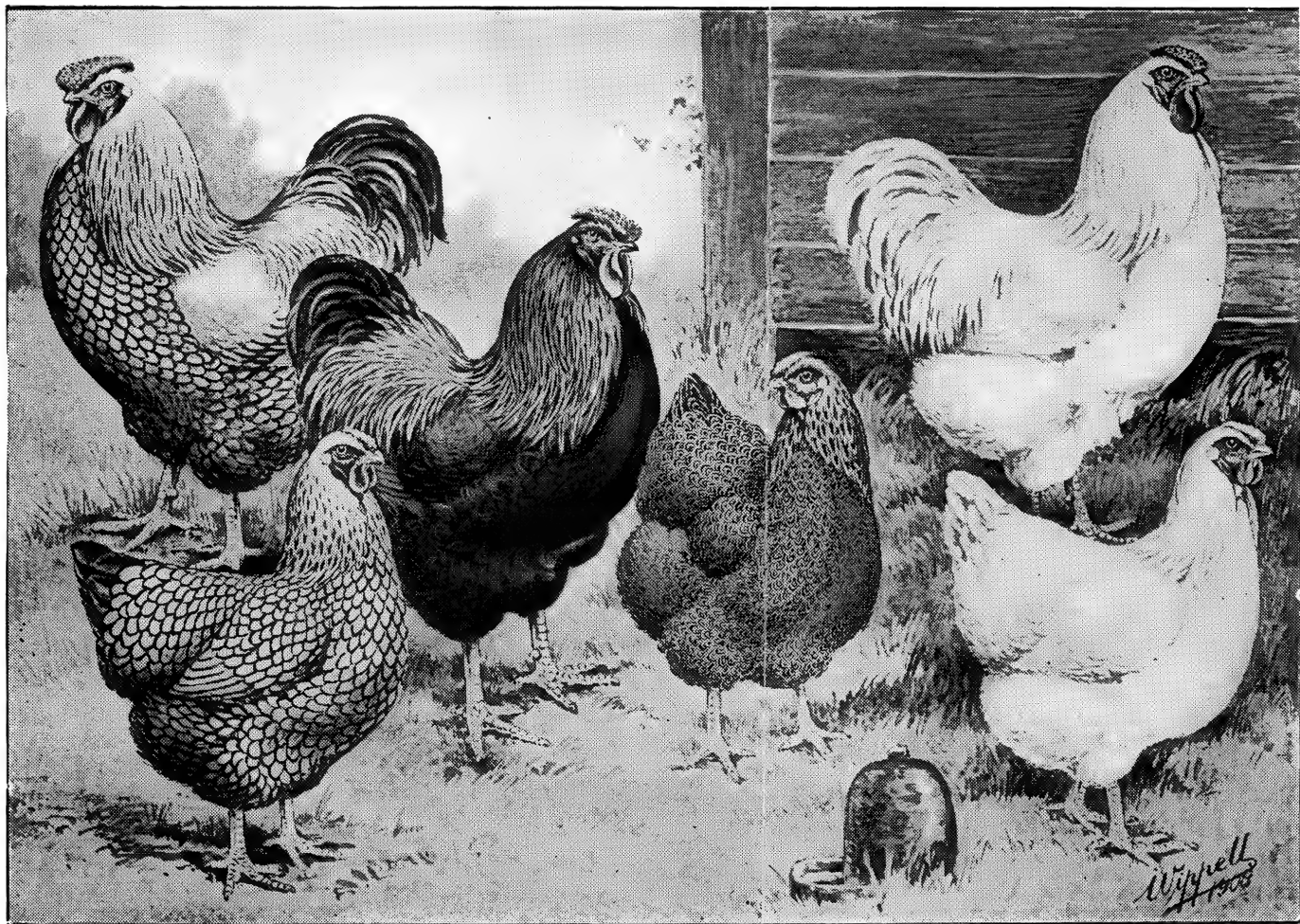
**Exhibiting.**

THOSE who breed birds for exhibition have many more opportunities now than used to exist, and the multiplication of summer shows make it essential that the chickens should be pushed along to secure early development and good feather condition. Therefore, from the first the question of shade and shelter has to be considered. Those who cannot give their birds shade should not keep Whites, Buffs, Silver-laced, Silver-pencilled, or Buff-laced, for these all need and must have shade if their plumage is to preserve its virgin purity.

Those who take up Wyandottes with the idea of exhibiting them should, when they have decided which variety to keep, purchase their breeding stock from one who is known as a successful breeder, and ask for his aid in the mating of the same. Breeders are, as a rule, pleased to help new beginners by selling breeding pens properly mated. Those who cannot afford to make a large outlay may commence by purchasing two or three sittings of eggs from someone who has made his name as a breeder of exhibition stock. Many a big winner has been hatched from a sitting of eggs so purchased.

In purchasing birds, or eggs, full particulars should be obtained as to pedigree and past history, and a careful record should be kept of every bird hatched. If more than one pen is kept the number of each should be recorded in a register with the pedigree of the sire and dam, and the date when the chickens were hatched. The advantage of this is that at any future time the pedigree of any given bird may be traced back for generations, and this is most useful in subsequent matings. The leg circlets sold by *The Poultry World* are most useful as means of identification, and no breeder should be without them, or some other means of identification.

As previously stated, when the sexes are separated all the wasters should be killed off, so that the more promising members of the flock may be given more space and attention. As the time for the shows draws



SILVER LACED, PARTRIDGE, AND WHITE WYANDOTTES.



near, the finest and most promising birds should be placed in pens by themselves. Ten days or a fortnight is usually long enough to get a bird into good show condition. During this time the feeding should be of such a character as to make the birds appear at their best, and they should be given a varied menu, ringing the changes on the different meals, and every day mixing the same with linseed boiled to a jelly. The evening feed should, of course, be grain, but the birds may be given at mid-day a handful or two of canary seed and hemp seed. Never forget the grit and green food, and a little sulphate of iron may be added to the drinking water every day as a tonic. This will enrich the blood and add to the tightness and beauty of plumage.

Whilst the birds are in the pens they should be talked to, given small pieces of raw meat, or a few grains of hemp seed from the hand. The judging stick should also be introduced to the pen, and the birds induced to show themselves to the best advantage. The feeding from the hand learns the bird to come up to the front of the pen with confidence and without fear, and thus when the judge reaches the pen the bird shows for all it is worth. This is a matter of considerable importance, as judges have no time to waste over birds which are wild or pen-shy. The pens in which the birds are put should have the floor thickly covered with sawdust, chaff, or fine peat moss. This will not only keep the birds from soiling their plumage, but also prevent corns on the feet, which quickly make their appearance when birds are kept on the hard boards.

Whites and Silver-laced will need to be washed before being shown, or they will stand little chance of being in the prize list. A bird may look perfectly clean whilst running about at home, but when it comes to be penned by the side of one that has been washed the difference is quickly seen. Early in the season, if one is living far removed from the smut and dirt of a big town, it may be possible to show the light plumaged varieties at a show or two without washing, but they soon become soiled. If it is possible endeavour to see some other fancier wash a bird before you attempt to perform on one yourself. Should this not be possible, then make a start yourself, but don't commence on a good bird straight away. Try your 'prentice hand on a common bird or an old stock bird. It certainly requires some

amount of skill to wash a fowl successfully, but the chief asset is confidence in one's own powers to bring the operation to the desired issue.

The way to wash is to have three large washing tubs or oval washing baths not less than thirty inches long, a plentiful supply of hot and cold water, four or five large fluffy towels, some soap (let it be good), a blue-bag, a couple of large sponges, and a nail-brush. Fill the baths or tubs three-parts full of water, the first about as warm as you can comfortably bear your hand in it, the second a little cooler, and the third only slightly removed from being cold, the chill just taken off. I like all three waters to be just tinged with blue, not much or the bird will show it when dry. A little borax should be dissolved in boiling water and mixed with the water in each of the baths, say a dessert spoonful to each bath, this has not only a softening influence on the water, but also tends to whiten the plumage.

In the first bath work up a good lather, then immerse the bird, holding it firmly the while. The best way to do this is to take the legs in the left hand and hold the wings with the right. Move the bird gently too and fro in the suds, and when the plumage has become thoroughly soaked release your hold of the wings, take the sponge, and go well over the body.

Don't, as some advise, rub soap into the feathers. It's a mistake. If your suds are strong enough they will loosen the dirt, and the sponge will bring it away. Once get soap into the feathers it takes a lot of getting out. When the plumage has become thoroughly soaked, rub it with the bare hand up and down, too and fro. If the wings and tail are much soiled, as they sometimes are, let an assistant hold the bird whilst you give them a rub with the nail-brush. Do the head and neck last of all, holding the legs firmly in the left hand whilst so doing. Most birds object to this part of the operation. Let your assistant hold the bird whilst you give the legs and feet a scrub with the nail-brush, taking care to insert the brush well under the scales to remove all dirt which has lodged there. Then give the bird a thorough good sousing in the suds, remove as much as you can of the same before placing in the second bath, rinse well in this, using a clean sponge, and then give a final rinse in the third bath. Remove all the water with the sponge. Then stand the bird on the table and go all



over him with a couple of the towels, getting the bird as dry as possible.

The washing over, put the bird in a large-sized poultry hamper which contains a good layer of clean straw, chaff and is lined only half-way round and stand in front of the fire. Have a good fire, but don't let it be too fierce, or it will blister the comb and face. Keep the bird near enough to feel the heat nicely, and out of the way of draughts. When the bird has been in the basket about half an hour take it out and give it a good rub down with another dry soft towel, stroking the way the feathers go, repeat the operation at the end of the first hour, and each hour until the plumage presents almost its normal appearance. The next morning give a good rub down with an old silk handkerchief.

The washing should take place about three days before the show, so as to give the natural oil of the plumage a chance to be renewed and the feather to web up properly. Before the bird is returned to the pen the morning after the washing the same should be thoroughly cleaned out, and the floor given a good covering of clean hay, straw, or chaff, the sides should also be well rubbed down with a clean duster, because a newly-washed bird soon soils. The darker plumaged varieties need not be washed, but rubbed over with a damp sponge, a towel, and finished off with a silk handkerchief. This, with the washing of their faces, combs, wattles, feet, and legs, is all that is needed. After the washing the combs, faces, wattles and legs, may be rubbed over with a little sweet oil or vaseline. This, in addition to preventing chapping or soreness, also adds to the richness of the colour.

Many fail as exhibitors because they do not give enough attention to these little details. Condition is most essential to success in the show pen. Dirty birds, or birds soft in feather and flesh, are not calculated to catch the judge's eye.

When birds return from a show they require careful attention, a feed of warm meal with a sprinkling of cayenne pepper and a drink of warm milk should be given. Birds are often feverish, owing to the excitement of the shows, and famished, owing to the long fast. Cold water should never be given, as it is apt to cause diarrhoea, and hard corn will often cause the bird to be crop-bound. A small feed of warm meal

will appease its hunger, and being easily digested will soon nourish the body.

Pullets may be returned to their companions in the run just before roosting time, if they are put in in the morning there is likely to be a dust-up all round. Cockerels must never be returned to their fellows, as murder may result. Certain it is that their showing days will be numbered. They should each be placed in separate runs, or in the cockerel houses by themselves.

A final word of caution. Don't over-show your birds. A moderate amount of showing will not hurt a bird, but too frequent showing will soon ruin the best, and many a good bird has been so ruined just because the owner wanted one more first and special for the season.



SILVER WYANDOTTE PULLET.

Winner 1st and Medal Royal Counties, 1st Sittingbourne, 1st Maidstone, 2nd Tunbridge Wells, and then sold at a big figure.

Bred and exhibited by Mr. A. J. Brock, St. Peter St., Canterbury.



## CHAPTER VI.

### **The Silver-laced.**

THIS was the first of the Wyandottes to make its appearance in this country, and it is of all the colours truest to type. I purpose here giving a description of the general characteristics of the Wyandotte which apply to all the varieties, and giving the same at the commencement of the chapters of the different varieties will save me the necessity of going over the ground repeatedly; therefore in the remaining chapters I shall only give those distinctive properties pertaining to the particular variety I am dealing with.

The one point beyond all others which strikes anyone seeing a Wyandotte for the first time is its comb, which is totally different to that of any other breed. It bears some resemblance to that of the Sebright Bantam, and no doubt inherits much of its peculiarity from that breed. In form the comb should be firm and evenly set on the head, it should be "well rosed" or "full of work," low and square in the front, taper gradually towards the spike, and follow well the curve of the neck, being almost as wide at the base as at the top, and should not protrude or hang over the sides of the head. This is a point in which many otherwise good birds fail. A great feature in a high-class Wyandotte is neatness of comb. The face and wattles should be red, with the latter well developed and nicely rounded, the lobes also should be red, free from white or yellow colouring, and of a nice round shape. The body should be deep, broad, well rounded, and present a cobby appearance, the breast full and round with good width at the shoulders. The wings should be neat, compact, and nicely folded. The tail should be full, well developed, and carry sickles of moderate length. The thighs should be of medium length and well covered with fluff. The legs and feet should also be of medium length, straight, stoutly made, and of a rich orange-yellow colour. The whole appearance of the bird should convey the idea of alertness, neatness, compactness, and general

smartness. As to size, the cockerels should weigh from seven to nine pounds, cocks eight to ten pounds; hens from six to eight pounds, pullets five to seven pounds. Exceptionally fine specimens may be found to exceed these weights.

From this general description it will at once be apparent that the Wyandotte is a bird of graceful, alert carriage, and cobby well rounded contour. Free from elongation or angularity. The legs must be set well apart, support a broad, well developed body, an in-kneed bird or a narrow shouldered one cannot show to advantage, and never possess that commanding appearance which is so characteristic of a high-class Wyandotte.

The great difficulty in breeding Silvers is not so much in possessing type as it is in keeping the beautiful regularity of the lacing. Even after all these years of breeding since the variety first came to us a first-class Silver is a comparative rarity, and not often seen. The chief difficulty being to obtain in the cockerels the silvery-white hackles and cushion together with soundly laced breast, fluff, and bars, whilst in the hens a bird sound in her black and white, without ticking or mossiness is seldom seen.

The first-class exhibition cockerel should have a head of pure silvery white, and merging into the neck hackle of the same shade with a well defined black stripe extending down the centre almost to the end of the feather. The tip and edge of the feather should be pure silver, and free from ticking. Next comes the breast, here the web of each feather should be pure white, with a clean cut lacing all round. This lacing should be of medium width, and show a beautiful rich sheeny lustre, free from white on the outer edge. From the throat, right over the breast, down to the thighs every feather should be laced and present a uniform appearance. The under colour should be black or dark slate, so as to show up the purity of the silver. A breast covered with good broad feathers, with large white centres, and evenly laced black-beetle green edges, is a picture difficult to obtain, but exceedingly handsome and valuable when it is. The back should be perfectly white and free from ticking, whilst the saddle hackle should resemble the neck hackle as nearly as possible.

The wings should be silvery-white at the shoulder and bow, and free from ticking or admixture of colour. This

is a somewhat difficult point, as nearly all birds show a creamy tinge in the wing. The coverts should be clearly laced all round, and form two distinct bars. The flights should be finely yet distinctly laced with black, whilst the tail should be solid black with a beetle-green lustre; white in tail is a big failing. The thighs should be well covered with black feathers with white centres, and well laced. The fluff should be full, and of a black shade powdered with grey.

The foregoing represents an ideal bird. A word or two as to the faults which spoil the ideal and show themselves in most birds will not be out of place. Sooty hackle, ticked wing, double lacing and too heavy lacing, spangling, light under colour, and white in tail.

So much for the cock, now for our ideal Silver hen. The ground colour in a hen should be the same as in the cock, as should be the feather of the head and neck hackle. The breast should be similar to the cocks, as should the throat and thighs, but they are seldom so good. The back differs from that of the cock altogether, inasmuch as every feather is laced like those on the breast. This lacing should be regular and uniform all over, with the centre of the feathers pure white, and quite free from ticking or mossiness. Some birds are more heavily laced than others, and if they are exceptionally good in colour, both of the black and white, are very handsome, but the open round lacing is the more difficult to obtain, and therefore the more highly prized. The tail, like the cock's, should be black.

Having given the faults of the cocks I give those usually seen in the hens. The most objectionable and most frequent is that of mossiness or ticking in the white of the feather, and which generally appears on the cushion. Double lacing, light lacing, patchy lacing, and V-shaped lacing are all faults of serious character. Dark or sooty hackles, washy or pale throats, and plain wing ends are faults which detract from the beauty of an exhibition specimen. Purity of colour and perfectly even lacing are the two great things to strive for.

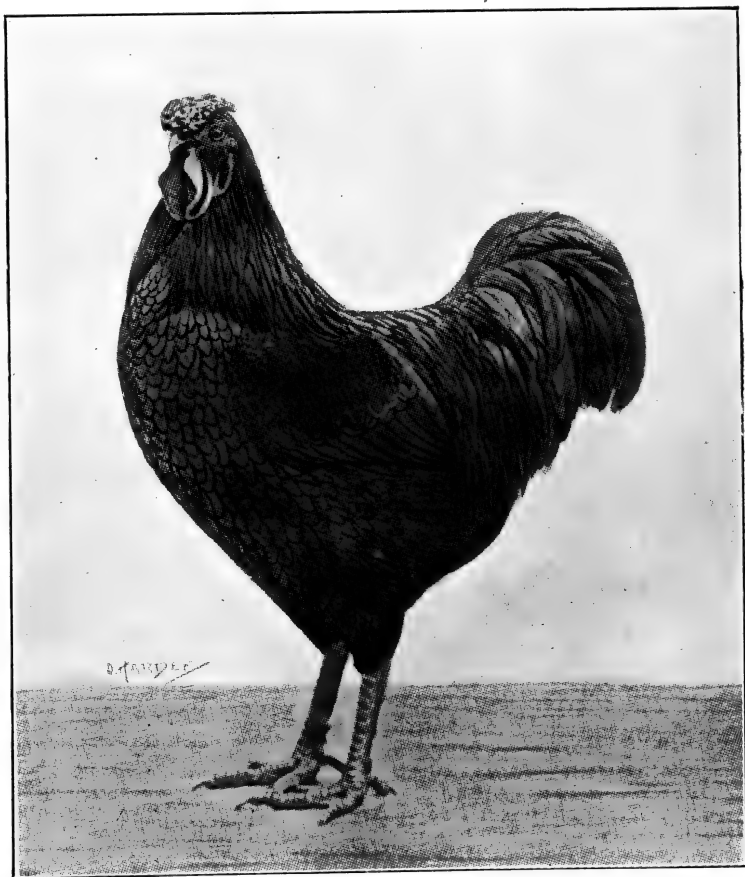
In breeding Silvers double mating is imperative. Therefore I will deal first with the cockerel breeding pen. The cock or cockerel selected should answer as near as possible to the description previously given. His mates should be hens or pullets of the same strain with plenty of size and bone, I like them on the dark side,

with sound breast colour and lacing, good wing and hock lacing, and sound in under-colour. Mossiness of cushion is no drawback, but rather an advantage, as many of the best cockerels are bred from mossy-cushioned hens, and you need not worry if they are a bit dark in hackle. Most certainly breed from bright hackled hens if you can get them good in other properties, should it be a choice between too dark or too light and washy I should unhesitatingly prefer the former. Combs, lobes, and wattles should be neat and sound. Never breed from a creamy-coloured cockerel if you can avoid it, brassiness of hackle and shoulder is very hard to breed out, far harder than sootiness on saddle. Neatness of head and soundness of tail are first points in the cockerel. As one can't always get just what is required, a certain amount of judgment must be exercised in using the material available. If your cock is lighter or darker than you like you must mate him with hens of suitable colour. The golden rule in mating is to counteract the failings of the sire with the merits of the dam, and *vice versa*. One thing must never be forgotten, and that is in all breeding stock there should be plenty of size and vigour.

We now come to the pullet breeding pen, and here the cock should be decidedly darker in colour than one used for cockerel breeding, and he should come from a pullet-breeding strain. His breast lacing should be rather heavy, his under colour very sound and showing good depth of lustre, his hackles should be well striped, his wing bars should be well defined, and his flights nicely laced. Examine the saddle hackle carefully and see that the secondary tail coverts have clear white centres, are, in fact, pullet laced. The more of this lacing he possesses, and the further it extends along the back the better. This kind of lacing being most essential to a pullet breeder.

The pullets should be very sound in colour, open and level in lacing, and free from mossiness or peppering on cushion. The hackles should be clean and bright, and good in under-colour. Attention should be paid to the heads, as neatness of comb goes a long way in the show pen. In mating up a pair it is as well to let some of the hens or pullets be lighter, and some darker than the standard, as one can never be sure what class of lacing in his mates may suit the cock selected. It should be





GOLD WYANDOTTE COCKEREL.

1st, Sp., and Cup best fowl in Show, Tattenhall, 1st, Sp., best Wyandotte, Chester, 1st Holmfirth, 1st Kendal, 1st Narbeth, 2nd Altrincham, Bristol, etc.

Bred and exhibited by Mr. W. L. Horbury, Elm House, Bromborough.



remembered that to keep and improve colour and lacing a certain amount of in-breeding is essential. In buying birds for breeding the greatest care should be used, and their pedigree closely inquired into, as one injudicious purchase may ruin a whole strain.

## CHAPTER VII.

### **The Gold-laced.**

THE Golds came to England first about the end of the eighties, Mr. A. W. Geffkin, of Southampton, a past president of the United Wyandotte Club, being the first fancier in England to import them. They were first produced by Mr. J. McKeen, of Orinoco, and came from a union of the Silver Wyandotte with a local breed known as Winnebajos. English breeders soon improved them, and there is not much doubt that Indian Game blood was the fountain from whence the improvement came, and even now some strains throw back to the Indian Game and produce birds with dark hackles and shoulders, coarse heads, and heavy brows.

In general characteristics the Golds are similar to the Silvers, excepting, of course, the ground colour, which is a rich golden bay. For the fancier with limited accommodation the Gold is to be preferred to the Silver, because it is possible to breed exhibition cockerels and pullets from the same pen, an almost utter impossibility in the Silvers, but many of our best Golds have been so bred. Still, for those who have the time and space at disposal, double mating is the most reliable and most satisfactory, as a larger percentage of exhibition birds are likely to result.

The following description of a high-class exhibition Gold cockerel will give my readers an idea of the kind of bird which finds most favour in the eyes of present-day judges of the variety. The head feather should be rich golden bay, and this should be the colour of the neck hackle, and as near the same shade as possible throughout. The stripe down the centre of each feather should be a rich green glossy black, sharp and distinct, and the hackle should come well down over the shoulders. The saddle hackle should match that of the neck. Rich golden bay should be the colour of the wing bow and shoulder coverts, not the deep maroon or dull brown which is sometimes seen. The bars and flights should be the same colour as the breast, and well

marked with rich green black lacing on the outer edge. This lacing should extend well round the feathers, showing the bar clear and distinct. The tail should be full, sound black with a beetle-green lustre, and quite free from white. The breast which is an all-important point, should be a rich bright bay, regularly and distinctly laced with deep green-black lacing, every feather from the throat downwards to the thighs should show this lacing clear and distinct, the under colour should be black or very dark slate, with the fluff slightly powdered with gold. The shanks and feet should be bright orange-yellow, free from sootiness or dark spots. The Gold pullet should answer the following description: Head and neck hackle rich golden bay, with distinct green-black striping. The breast should be of the same rich bay colour, with every feather clearly and distinctly laced, free from golden fringe or double lacing. The back, cushion, and wings should correspond with the breast, except that the ground colour should appear rather more lustrous, the lacing should be rich green-black and of a uniform depth throughout. The tail coverts should show rich bright bay centres, and be quite free from pepperings or mossiness. The under colour should be black, and the legs and feet rich orange-yellow, free from sootiness or dark spots.

I have described what may be termed an ideal pair of Gold Wyandottes, but the birds which approach such a description are few and far between. Many birds are light and uneven in the ground colour, and their lacing is not as dark and glossy as it should be. Many Gold cockerels fail in finish of comb, white in the lobe is another fault which crops up all too often. Sooty hackles are an abomination which come more frequently in the dark coloured birds, therefore do I insist so strongly on the rich bright bay colour. The craze for extra striping has had something to do with many birds being sooty in hackle, because it is difficult to confine the excess of black to the striping alone. On the other hand we have hackles that are too light, and birds of this character are also generally light and brassy in shoulders, a fault often accompanied by light under-colour. A ticked hackle is another great failing. Dull brown or brick-red in the wing is also a common defect, but improvement is being made in this direction. Unevenness of breast colour and deficiency of lacing are

not considered so much by some judges as they should be, they are grave faults. Soundness of colour and uniformity of lacing are two of the chief features, and badly finished or blotchy lacing, or mottled colour, should be penalised heavily.

In the pullets a failing in type is often seen, many being narrow in front, short of cushion, and too high in the leg. In colour the hackle is sooty or blotchy, the wing dark, the breast too dark in some, too light in others, whilst some have good breasts and bad shoulders. Others, again, are too light in under-colour, being more brown than black. Many are spoilt by the lacing being weak at the throat and top of the breast. Others are narrow in lacing, some double-laced. Mossiness or peppering is also very prevalent, whilst quite a large number are sooty in leg colour.

In breeding Gold Wyandottes the same rules apply as those I have given for the breeding of Silvers. Soundness of colour and evenness of lacing are the great essentials to be kept in view. I strongly advocate double mating, as one gets a far larger percentage of good chicks by so mating, but it is not absolutely essential, as many good birds of both sexes have been bred from birds mated up on the one pen principle.

The Gold Wyandotte as it exists to-day is a very handsome bird. It has been much improved since first introduced into England, and in addition to its striking beauty is as an all round utility fowl very hard to beat. The hens are layers of a rich brown egg, they lay well in winter, are most docile sitters, and excellent mothers. The chicks grow quickly, arrive at maturity at an early age, and are really good table birds. As a cross for utility purposes the Gold Wyandotte is one of the best.

From what I have written the new beginner will have gathered that I consider the Gold Wyandotte one of the best of the family, especially for the small fancier. Before leaving this chapter I should like to give my readers a little advice in regard to the purchasing of their original stock. In the first place find out a breeder of winners, not a mere exhibitor, or one who buys most of his winners, ask him to mate up the pen you buy from him so as to produce winners, advising him as to the lines upon which you intend to proceed in the future, that is whether you are intending to found a

cockerel strain, a pullet strain, or a strain producing both cockerels and pullets. Get to know something about the pedigree of the birds, and then in your subsequent matings keep to your own strain. Many a young fancier has ruined his chances of success by the introduction of alien blood just as he was getting his strain established. To breed any variety successfully a certain amount of in-breeding must be followed, but especially so in any variety in which lacing or marking play an important part.

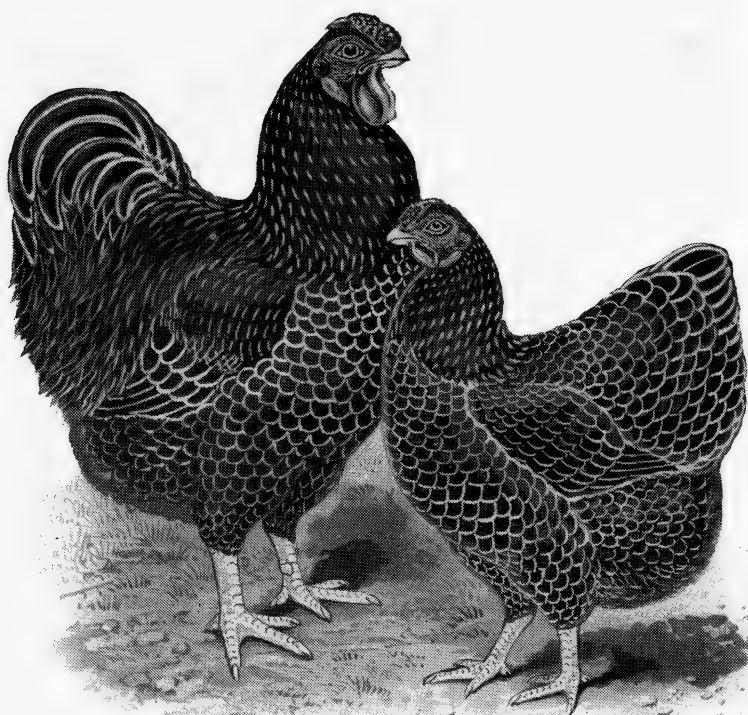
## CHAPTER VIII.

**Other Laced Varieties.****THE BUFF-LACED, BLUE-LACED, AND WHITE-LACED BLACKS.**

BUFF-LACED Wyandottes were first introduced into this country by that enthusiastic fancier, the Rev. J. Crombleholme, of Clayton-le-Moors, in the year 1897, but although very handsome, hardy, and good utility birds, they have not taken the public fancy. It is hardly necessary to give more than a general description of the Buff-laced, as much which I have written concerning the more popular Gold is applicable to the Buff-laced. The general characteristics are, of course, the same, and so is the lacing, the only difference comes in the colour, and if the description of the Gold is followed, substituting buff for bay, and white for black wherever it occurs in the colour description of the Gold, you will understand what the Buff-laced should be.

Very few good Buff-laced birds have been seen. Most of those shown have been splashed with either blue or black in the tail, some have been very blotchy in lacing, many too light in hackle, others too dark, showing black or double colouring, others, again, have been very dark on the shoulders. To perfect the variety a course of double mating will have to be followed, and for the cockerel breeding pen I should recommend a cockerel as even in his buff as possible, that is hackles, back, wings, and breast as near one shade as possible, the hackle striping should be a clear and distinct stripe down the centre of each feather, and the white lacing should commence at the throat and go evenly down the breast to the thighs. The tail and underbody colour to be white without any dark spots or shading. The hens for such a bird should be as even in their buff as it is possible to get, be very clearly striped in their hackles, distinct in wing bars, have well-laced breasts, if a trifle heavily laced so much the better, as in the cockerel the tail and under-colour should be white.





WHITE-LACED BLACK WYANDOTTES.

The first exhibited.

Bred by the Rev. J. W. A. Mackenzie, Whitwick.



For the breeding of pullets I should prefer a heavily-laced cock, one sound in his colour, and his mates should be pullets as near to exhibition standard as may be obtainable.

Blue-laced Wyandottes are even less popular than the Buff-laced. In ground colour they are a deeper buff than the Buff-laced, and instead of the white lacing their plumage is laced with blue.

Black White-laced Wyandottes are as yet quite in the experimental stage, and the credit of their introduction is due to that enthusiastic fancier, the Rev, J. W. A. Mackenzie. I am not at liberty to say anything about these birds at present beyond the fact that they have originated from a couple of Wyandotte hens which contained in a latent and invisible state the blood of a White-laced variety, but which became dominant and visible when they were crossed with a pure Wyandotte cock. As the name indicates the bird is an exact reversal of the oldest member of the Wyandotte family, the Silver-laced. Instead of a white feather with black lacing, we have a black feather with white lacing. It is a bird of very striking appearance, possessing all the characteristics of the Wyandotte family, equalling them in their splendid utility qualities, and by reason of its colour should run the Self-black a hard race for popularity amongst town dwellers, by reason of the fact that its plumage will not show the grime and dirt like the lighter colours.

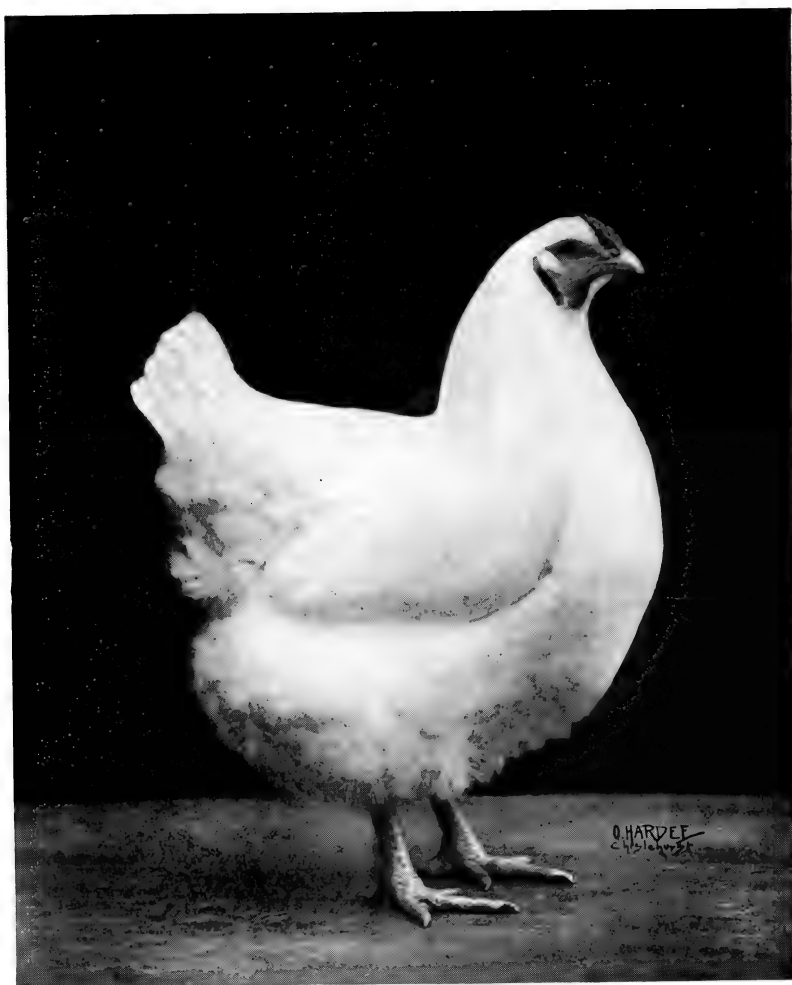
## CHAPTER IX.

**The Self Colours.**

## THE WHITES.

IN dealing with the self colours in Wyandottes the white naturally comes first. Not only because it is the oldest, but also because it is the most popular. This popularity is due not only to its beauty as an exhibition variety, but also to the fact that amongst utility birds it has reached a very high standard, owing to its wonderful winter laying properties.

The general properties in the White are the same as in all the other Wyandottes, its one distinctive feature being its colour, which should be a pure dead white throughout, both top and underneath. Some strains are more pure than others in colour, many showing an inclination to straw or cream colour in the hackles and saddle. White being a colour which is quickly affected by the sun much of this may be due to exposure. Apart from this, however, some strains have naturally a yellow tinge running through the plumage, especially those that are extra rich in leg colour. Still, there are some strains which, although very good in leg colour, possess the beautiful purity of colour which is so much desired. If great care is used in the selection of breeding stock the colour of even faulty strains may be much improved. It does not do to condemn white chickens too early, as in some cases birds which are sappy and creamy in their first feathers moult out well. Birds that are intended for breeding should not be selected from the rest of the flock until they have moulted right through. They can still be further examined and re-selected so to speak when mating-up time comes along. Thus by the double process of selection none but the purest coloured birds will get into the breeding pens. As a general rule the cocks have most to say where colour is concerned, and, therefore, extra care should be given to the selection of the cocks and cockerels. From this it must not be assumed that the colour of the hens



WHITE WYANDOTTE HEN.

Winner of over Twenty First and Special Prizes.

Owned by Mr. W. H. Cook, Model Poultry Farm, St. Paul's Cray.



and pullets is immaterial, they have a say in colour production, but not so much as the cocks.

As I have said bad top colour may not be natural, but may be the result of exposure to the sun and weather. This can easily be ascertained by lifting the feathers and examining the under-colour.

If the quills and web of the feathers near the body are sound and pure white you need have no hesitation in putting down the bad outside appearance to the weather. One point in connection with Whites which is worthy of note is that it often happens that a bird which is sappy or creamy in its first season often moults out the second year with a coat of perfect purity.

As breeders of Whites have not to contend with the difficulties of marking, lacing, etc., size and shape are of greater importance than in other varieties, and the breeder who in addition to possessing birds pure in colour pays extra attention to these points, not overlooking the other breed characteristics, is certain to reap a fair share of the honours of the show pen.

#### THE BLACKS.

I claim to be the founder and pioneer of the Black Wyandotte, and it was owing in a very large measure to my guaranteeing classes that the variety first took hold of the public attention. Once having gained that attention the variety went with a swing, and there was a regular boom in Black Wyandottes. Whilst the boom lasted all kinds of crossbreds and mongrels were foisted on to unsuspecting purchasers by certain unscrupulous individuals. No variety has ever been exploited more by the shady ones of the fancy than has the Black Wyandotte, and it is only by its own intrinsic merit that it has been enabled to withstand the tricks of these individuals. Unfortunately, however, many good fanciers have had their fingers burnt, and not only the Black Wyandotte fancy, but other branches of the fancy as well have had to suffer because of the nefarious practices adopted by some of the cute ones.

It is now eight years since that I bred my first Black Wyandotte, it being a cockerel and a sport from one of my pens of Golds. This bird, except for a certain amount of red ticking in his hackle was a sound black colour. This set me thinking, and in the following season I mated this bird to some very dark Gold hens

and pullets from the same family. This gave me a good start, as amongst them were a number of Black pullets. These I mated back to the original Black cock, their sire, and thus established the colour. The mixing up of so much dark blood naturally spoilt the leg colour, and many of the cockerels were red in hackle. To rid my strain of these faults I introduced some White Wyandotte blood, breeding some hens and pullets to a Black cockerel. Then by a careful and judicious blending of the progeny of the Black and White cross I went further ahead, and soon had Black Wyandottes which for type and colour could compete with the other varieties, and which in leg colour were not far behind. Then in 1906, when the variety began to make a move, I was able to take my place with the best, and had the great satisfaction of winning at Cheltenham show in that year, the first medal ever offered for a Black Wyandotte, and although I have won hundreds of prizes since with Blacks no win has ever given me half the pleasure that the Cheltenham win did.

Since those days Blacks have advanced by leaps and bounds, and although it is only three years since, we now have a number of birds which in leg colour can compete on equal terms with some of the older established varieties. Still, all in all, leg colour is the one point in which the variety affords scope for improvement more than any other, that is if soundness of colour is to accompany yellow legs.

Black Wyandottes have been bred in America for many years, but the leg question has proved too big a one for Brother Jonathan, and so he has shelved it, and admits Black Wyandottes with dark legs. English breeders would not do this. The orange-yellow leg is a characteristic of the Wyandotte family, and to their lasting credit English breeders said the Blacks must have it as well as other members of the family.

To-day the Black Wyandotte compares very favourably with other members of the family in shape, size, head, and colour properties, especially in pullets, and the two weak points are lack of soundness in under-colour in the cockerels and sooty legs in the pullets. When breeders have successfully overcome the difficulty of obtaining soundness of colour with rich orange-yellow legs, then the Blacks will not be one whit inferior in points to any of the other colours.



The cockerels of to-day possess in a superlative degree rich top colour with plenty of beetle-green sheen, they are also most excellent in leg colour, but when one comes to examine them carefully very few are found which run sound in under-colour, tail, and flights. If we go in for double mating in Black Wyandottes this difficulty, as also that of the dusky legs in the pullets, will be quickly overcome, but if we do this we at once take away a great deal of interest in the variety, and render it less attractive to town dwellers who have neither the time nor convenience to bother about double mating. It is my opinion that by careful selection we shall be able to overcome these difficulties, and that soundness of under-colour and purity of leg colour will go hand-in-hand. In fact, I have birds in my breeding pens this season, both cockerels and pullets, which, whilst thoroughly sound in under-colour, flights, and tail, have clear yellow legs.

We have not got far enough yet with the variety for anyone to lay down dogmatic and arbitrary rules as to breeding. Thus far there is no doubt that to improve the colour of the legs, and also the body colour and sheen of the pullets, breeders have used the white blood pretty extensively. Some breeders go so far as to say that it is impossible to breed the Black Wyandotte from sound coloured birds on each side, but this is a fallacy. I have bred (and I hope to do so again) both cockerels and pullets from a pen in which on both sides the parents were sound in under-colour and good in leg. Double mating would, of course, simplify matters greatly, but it would give us a larger percentage of birds which are useless for anything but the pot, owing to the small demand which exists for pullet-breeding cockerels for stock. I am not an advocate for double mating, but prefer to make judicious selection, watching the birds, noting carefully the points in the progeny year by year, and gradually improving the two points which I have mentioned.

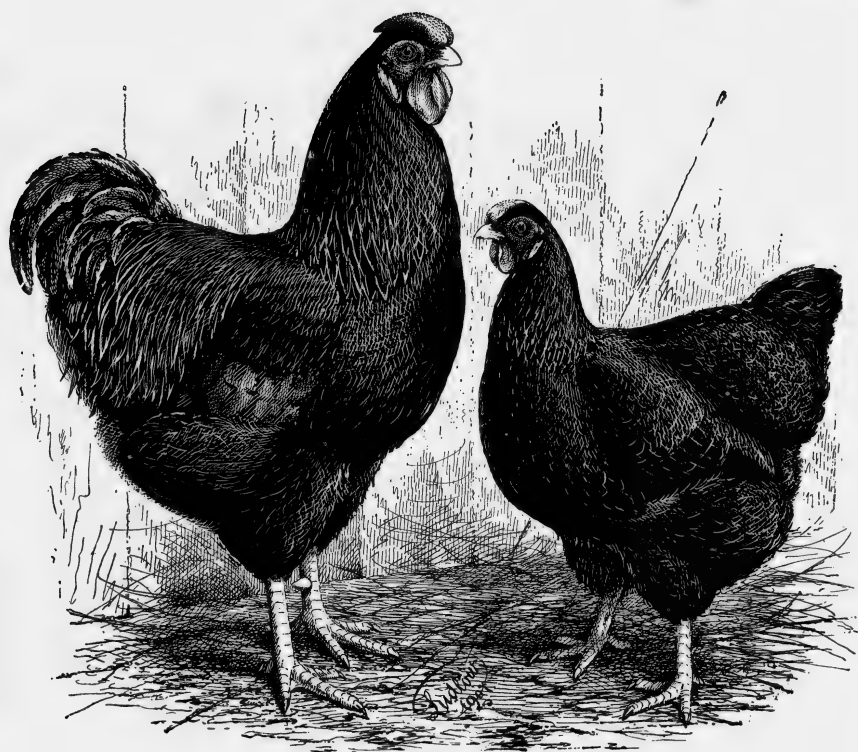
So far as utility is concerned there is no doubt whatever in my mind that the Black is the most profitable member of the Wyandotte family. It is wonderfully docile and quiet, the hens sit carefully, seldom cracking or chipping an egg, as mothers they are most watchful, gentle and attentive to their chicks. They lay a nicely tinted egg of a good size, and plenty of them during

those months of the year when eggs are in the greatest demand. As table birds they are most excellent, the chickens grow fast, mature early, and carry plenty of breast meat of a nice succulent character. For town dwellers they are bad to beat, their colour does not suffer from the smoke and grime, they bear confinement well, a five foot fence will keep them in bounds, and the cocks, like the hens, are very quiet and docile, not crowing half so much as some breeds. All in all, either for exhibition or utility purposes, the Black Wyandotte is one of the best.

#### THE BUFFS.

One of the earliest breeders of Buff Wyandottes in England was Mr. John Wharton, even if he may not be given the credit of being the originator of the breed so far as this country is concerned. He commenced operations by mating Silver-laced Wyandottes to Buff Cochins, his idea being to lay the foundation of type from the Wyandotte and to get the colour from the Cochin, and in a couple of years from the date of his first experiment he produced a winning Buff Wyandotte. American breeders are said to have used the Silver-laced Wyandottes and Rhode Island Reds in their production of the Buff. The first American Buff Wyandottes to be seen in England were a pair which were sent over to the Liverpool show in 1893, but they were hardly of the colour which English breeders like, being too red, and not at all approaching the colour of the Buff Cochin, which is the ideal which English breeders set themselves to attain.

In general characteristics the Buffs should be like unto all the other members of the family, added to which is the one point of colour, from which they derive their name, and this should be of a rich golden buff hue, without any sign of mealiness, or on the other hand a dark or reddish hue. There is considerable variation even to-day in the colour of different strains, some being richer than others, but upon one point, evenness, all judges and breeders are agreed. Further, the lighter or golden hued birds are the most popular, and this colour should extend right through the bird, that is all over the body and down to the roots of the feathers "Buff to the skin," is an oft heard expression, and is an accurate and succinct description of what a good Buff should be.



IDEAL BLACK WYANDOTTES.

Published by the kind permission of the Black Wyandotte Club.



The faults most generally seen in the cockerels are dark coloured shoulders, light under-colour, sooty or dark hackles, black and white feathers in the tail. Speaking generally the pullets come more even in colour than the cockerels, and in them the prevailing faults are sooty and ticked hackles, mealiness of body colour, and peppery tails. The greatest fault either from a breeding or exhibition point of view is the mealiness, as it betokens a lack of the essential buff colouring matter in the blood, and this fault is one that needs constant watching, as the Buffs generally show a disposition to breed chickens lighter than the parent stock.

In selecting Buffs for breeding, the first consideration both in cocks and hens should be soundness of colour—buff to the skin. Cocks which are grey or white in flights and tail should never be selected, but a bird which is too dark in body colour for exhibition, or dark in flights or tail may be, as he will correct the tendency to lightness of colour. An otherwise good bird need not be discarded even if he shows a slight amount of black in the tail, although the more even and pure in colour he is the better. The hens or pullets should, however, be sound not only in body but also in flights and tail. When one is purchasing a Buff the wings and tail should be carefully examined and the feathers counted, so as to be certain all are there, otherwise it may happen that later on one or two dark or light feathers may make their appearance. The neck hackle of pullets should also be carefully overhauled, as sometimes ticked feathers are nipped off to make the neck look clear and sound in colour. This fault is one which requires most careful watching, it is not so prevalent as a few years since, still it has a trick of cropping up even amongst the best strains.

One final word of warning as to the selection of Buffs for breeding, and that is never mix birds of two different strains. If you do there is no telling what may not happen, and instead of breeding birds sound and even in colour like their parents, you may have them come with white flights and tails, mealy bodies, or with ticked hackles, peppery cushions, and black tails. Purity of colour is the great thing to be aimed for, and to secure this birds must be related, and a certain amount of in-breeding resorted to.

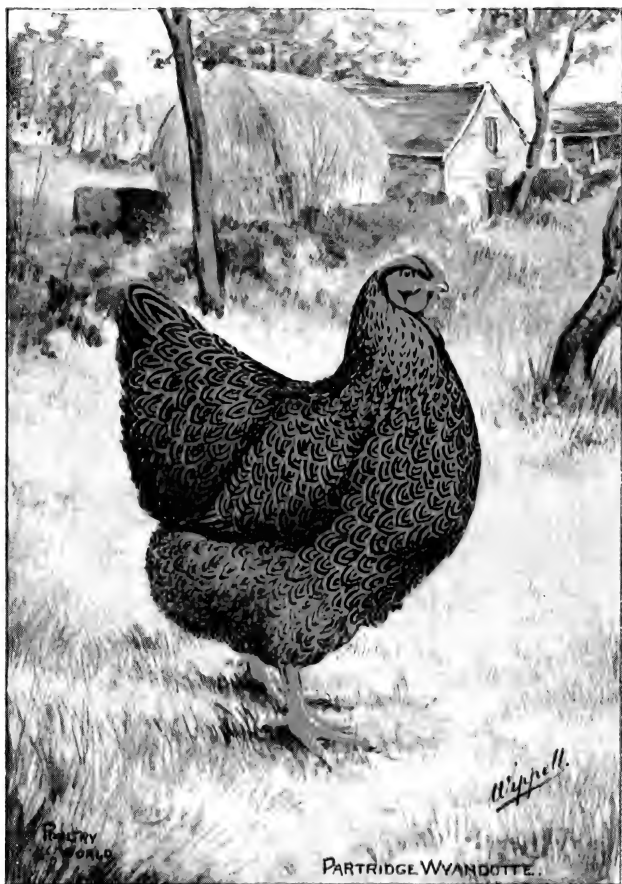
## CHAPTER X.

### Partridges.

THE Partridge naturally claims first attention in dealing with the Pencilled family. Many breeders say they should be styled Gold Pencils, and in America they were at one time so described. In their manufacture the Partridge Cochin has undoubtedly played a large part, as has the Gold-laced Wyandotte, the Golden-Pencilled Hamburgh, and the Indian Game. From what can be gathered English and American breeders had, unknown to each other, been working to produce a Partridge Wyandotte, but it was not until Mr. John Wharton imported some birds from America that this fact became known, Mr. Graham, of Stockport, whose stock afterwards passed into the hands of Messrs. Spencer and Pettipher, having been at work for some four years seeking to establish a strain of Partridge Wyandottes. From this time onward the variety made rapid strides, and to-day there is not much doubt that the Partridge is the most popular member of the whole Wyandotte family. Much of this popularity may be ascribed to the fact that they are good winter layers, very fair table birds, very docile, easily confined, most excellent mothers and are not large eaters. They do well either in a confined suburban run or on a free range, they adapt themselves to any soil and any climate, and do as well in the South and West of England as they do upon the exposed hillsides of Yorkshire and Cumberland.

The Partridge should in all general characteristics conform to the standard governing the Wyandotte family, therefore I need not go into particulars regarding such, but confine myself to the questions of colour and markings which differentiate the Partridge from other varieties. Taking the cockerels first and commencing with the hackle, which is a great feature in a first-class bird. This should be of a rich golden orange colour, with a green-black stripe down the centre





POULTRY  
WORLD

PARTRIDGE WYANDOTTE.



of each feather. It is important that this striping should be very clear and distinct. It should not run to the extreme tip of the feather or the hackle will look cloudy or sooty. The saddle hackle should match the neck hackle, but generally speaking it is a shade or two darker in colour. Still, in the ideal bird the two should correspond both in colour and striping. The back should be a rich bright red of a darkish shade, but not mahogany or dark red as is so often seen. The colour should be clear and solid, not mixed with black. The wing should be a rich green-black without any sign of ticking or blotchiness. The breast and thighs should also be of a rich green-black, solid and deep without any signs of rustiness or red ticking. The flights should be solid black, and the tail a rich beetle-green black. Many birds fail in wings and tail, the feathers showing grey or white when examined.

Exhibition pullets should have a clearly pencilled golden hackle, the pencilling being very fine. The ground colour of the body should be a soft light brown, perfectly even and free from yellow, reddish, or mahogany tinge. Every feather on the body, from the throat to the tail, should be clearly and finely pencilled with rich green-black pencilling. The shaft of each feather should be black, and the bands clear, distinct, and uniform, not broken or showing signs of ticking. The more regular and even the pencilling, the more valuable the bird, especially if the fluff is well pencilled, as this is where the majority fail. In regard to this point it must not be forgotten that hens are invariably superior in pencilling to pullets.

In breeding Partridges double mating is imperative. This being so, the fancier who suffers from limited accommodation should breed for pullets only, by so doing he will save himself the trouble of keeping a lot of cockerels, which, in suburban districts are often a nuisance to the neighbours.

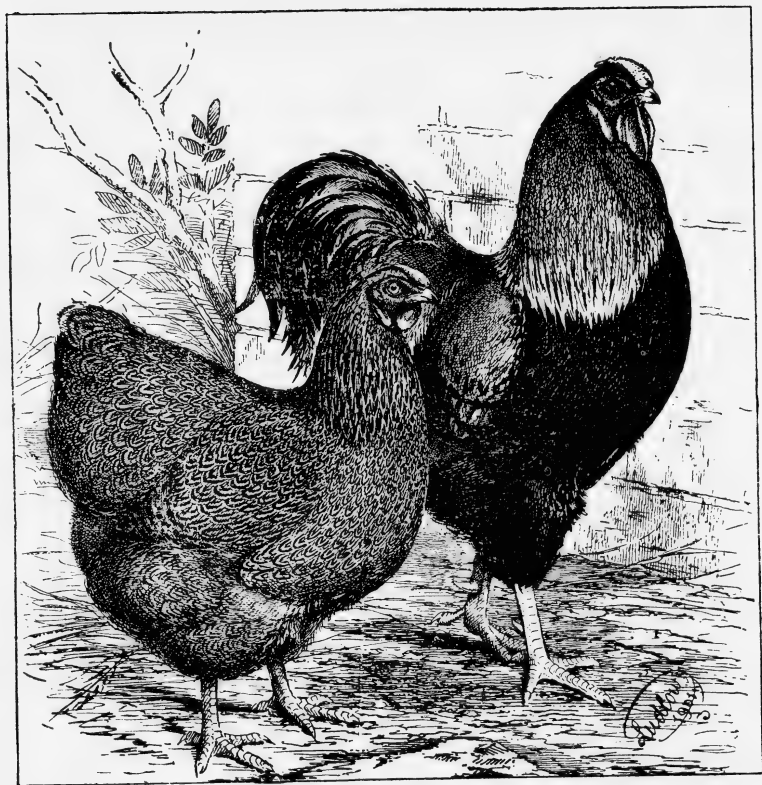
Those who breed cockerels will need to select as the head of their pen a bird which comes somewhere near to the standard of perfection, in other words, a good exhibition bird. To him should be mated hens or pullets of good size and shape with dark body colour as free from pencilling as possible except upon the hackle, and this should be as nearly as possible like the cock's hackle, that is rich golden colour with a well

defined black stripe. Avoid birds which show pencilling in the hackle, or which are dark or muddy coloured in hackle. Look well to the colour of legs, avoid those that are dark, and select those coming nearest to the standard of rich golden orange.

Those who go in for cockerel breeding only need not invest so much money in stock as those who desire to breed pullets. In cockerel breeding there is only one bird in the pen which need be up to standard requirements, but in the pullet breeding pen the position is reversed, and there is only one bird which is not of exhibition value, and as exhibition value is always greater than mere breeding value it goes without saying that a cockerel breeding pen is cheaper to purchase than a pullet breeding pen.

In mating up a pen to breed pullets one goes on totally different lines to those pursued in cockerel breeding. The first consideration is the hens or pullets. These must, if not actually good exhibition specimens, come somewhere near to the requirements of such. The more perfect they are the more likelihood is there of their progeny being up to exhibition form. The cockerel for the pullet breeding pen is a totally different bird to the one required at the head of the cockerel breeding pen. In purchasing such a bird one has to trust the seller, because often a likely looking pullet breeder flatters but to deceive, and selecting by mere appearance is a very risky business indeed. He should be of a darker shade of colour than the cockerel breeder, not so bright in hackle, he should be striped in hackle, but not clearly like the cockerel breeder, if there are signs of pencilling they are of value. The breast should be well mottled with red feathers, and his wing should show sign of lacing, as may his tail. So much, however, depends upon strain, and it often happens that an unlikely looking bird for the purpose turns out to be one of the best pullet producers, therefore one can only generalise in describing a pullet breeding cockerel.

The faults in Partridge Wyandottes which are most prevalent are whiteness in lobe of both cockerels and pullets, lightness of eye, few possessing the rich blood-red eye which is so much desired. The hackle striping is often pale and dull in colour, and the hackle itself is not sound in colour, being either too light, too dark, or blotchy. In cockerels the breast and fluff is often



PARTRIDGE WYANDOTTES.

Bred and exhibited by Mr. John Wharton, Honeycott Farm, Hawes, Yorks.

The Cockerel won 1st Crystal Palace, and was sold for £100. The Hen won Cup, Gold Medal, 1st Crystal Palace, and was sold along with two more hens for 100 Guineas.



tinged with red, whilst the top colour is generally much too dark. The pullets are too dark in legs, one seldom sees a good legged pullet, and many pullets also fail in colour, being too red or foxy. Another very general fault is lack of pencilling on fluff, whilst some birds are not sound in pencilling on the cushion, showing signs of ticking, that is the dark bands being broken by the ground colour. Some birds show signs of feather on legs, which is a great fault.

One final warning note, and that is never buy a breeding pen of Partridges from anyone who is unknown. If you cannot buy from some friend then send to one of our best-known breeders, a man of known worth, and who has a reputation at stake. State your wants clearly, and leave the actual selection in his hands.

In breeding Partridges you will often get white chickens. If you get two or even more white sports in in the brood don't be surprised.

#### THE SILVER-PENCILLED.

The Silver-pencilled is, so to speak, the Partridge in another coat, the only difference between the two varieties being the colour of the coat. The breeder of the Silver-pencilled is confronted with almost the same problems and difficulties as the breeder of Partridges. The chief factor in the production of the Silver-pencilled was undoubtedly the Dark Brahma, and in colour and markings the two breeds are to-day identical. By this I mean that the standard requirements in exhibition birds are the same. From a colour point of view there are few birds more beautiful than the Silver-pencilled Wyandotte.

The neck hackle of the cockerel should be a clear silvery white, free from creaminess or straw colour, each feather should have a rich green-black stripe running down the centre, reaching almost, but not quite, to the extreme end of the feather. The saddle hackle, which should be full and abundant, should match the neck hackle in colour and striping, the more solid and distinct the striping the more valuable. The wing bow and bay should be of the purest silvery white, without the slightest trace of admixture of any other colour. The rest of the plumage should be a rich green-black with plenty of sheen.

The exhibition pullet should have a hackle similar to that described for the cockerel, although many show a tendency to pencilling, especially when the body pencilling is extra good. The body colour should be one uniform shade of soft silvery grey, with every feather evenly and regularly pencilled with clear rich green-black bands. This pencilling should extend from the throat down the breast and thighs, and over the top of the body, the two top feathers of the tail should also show it, the rest of the tail being black. Silver-pencilled pullets are not yet so sound in pencilling as the Partridge pullets, and another thing to be observed is that generally speaking the reverse rule holds good in respect to the colour and pencilling, for whereas the Partridges improve in these points the Silver-pencilled do not, and the Silver-pencilled pullet is invariably superior in her pencilling and colour to the Silver-pencilled hen.

In mating the Silver-pencilled the same rules must be observed as I gave in speaking of the Partridges, therefore I shall not go over the ground again.

Silver-pencilled breeders find much difficulty in keeping up the quality of the pencilling, which seems to be of a far more elusive nature than that of the Partridges. Another great difficulty experienced is in relation to colour, many of the pullets exhibiting a tendency to go brown, and with age this failing gets worse, so much so that some birds after their first adult moult are quite brown and show scarcely any silver colour. To counteract this failing, which in the opinion of some has been brought about by a crossing of the Partridges and the Silver-pencilled, a dip into the Brahma should again be taken, by this means not only will the colour be improved, but also the size, in which respect also the Silver-pencilled compares badly with the Partridge. If this is not possible, owing to limited accommodation, then breeders should select their breeding stock strongly for colour, casting on one side any bird which fails in this respect, no matter how good it may be in other properties. Colour being such an important property in the Silver-pencilled it will pay to sacrifice other points for a season or two until colour has not only been improved, but also fastened in the strain.

Silver-pencilled Wyandottes should, like other delicate coloured birds, be given plenty of shade after they reach the age of five months, and even during early

chickenhood they will be none the worse for it, but they should not be penned up for that purpose until they are six or seven months, as the close penning affects their general health injuriously whilst they are still growing and moulting. If birds are allowed to run in exposed situations after they are five months old their plumage will become tanned, but if they can be kept in a coppice or shrubbery where the sun cannot penetrate they will do well, and need then only be penned a week or ten days before being exhibited. When the autumn rains make their appearance, then all exhibition birds should be kept in confined quarters with covered runs. It being impossible to preserve the beautiful silvery appearance if they are allowed free range.

#### THE COLUMBIAN.

The Columbian is one of the later varieties of Wyandottes, and bears the same relationship to the Silver-pencilled as the Light Brahma does to the Dark Brahma. The principal difficulty which breeders have thus far had to encounter has been that of hackle colour. Plenty of good bodied birds, that is good in body plumage, shape, and size, have been produced, but they have mostly failed in hackle and tail, particularly the former. Yet it should not be so, because if breeding is followed on correct lines the colour of body and hackle ought each to improve automatically. That the Columbian is one of the most strikingly beautiful members of a most handsome family no one will deny, and it seems strange that whilst the Whites have flourished amazingly the Columbian has not made much headway. The markings of the Columbian Wyandotte are similar to those of the Light Brahma, and these seen in contrast with the lovely clear pure body colour and bright orange-yellow legs make a picture that must appeal at once to those who have the artistic faculties well developed.

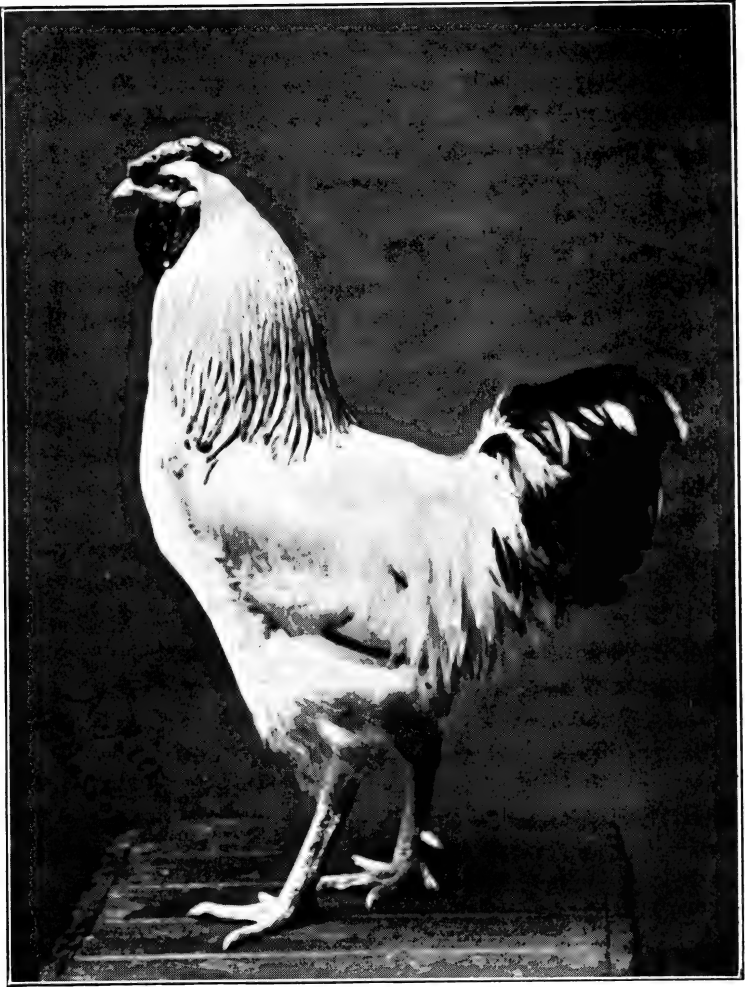
The chief difficulty in breeding Columbians is to obtain a sufficient amount of marking in the hackle without producing colour in other places where it is not wanted. The natural tendency is for the hackle to come lighter and lighter, therefore, in breeding, the first thought must be given to this point, upon which so much of the beauty of the variety depends. In selecting

a cockerel for breeding, preference should be given to one with the hackle striping very clear and distinct, sound in body colour, and in all respects coming as near the ideal as possible. Such a bird mated to hens too light in hackle will produce cockerels which should come somewhere near to standard requirements. For pullet breeding the hens or pullets used should be good exhibition birds, or those which have an excess of colour in the hackle, the cockerel need not be an exhibition bird, but one with narrow yet very distinct hackle striping.

It is, of course, possible to breed both cockerels and pullets from the same pen, but the double mating gives quicker and better results, and the percentage of wasters amongst the chickens is not so large. If it is not convenient to indulge in double mating and only one pen can be used for the production of both cockerels and pullets, then the cockerel heading the pen should be as near to standard requirements as it is possible, whilst his mates may be exhibition birds, or approaching thereto. That is to say, they must not on the one hand be too light in their marking, neither must they be too dark. As very heavily marked hens or pullets would produce cockerels far too dark, and the faintly marked ones would produce pullets too light and washy in hackle. In the single mating the disappointments will be more frequent than when double mating is resorted to, yet those who like to breed both sexes from the one pair, owing to their not having the time or accommodation to keep cockerel and pullet breeding pens, may do so and feel assured that they will meet with a fair measure of success if they are careful in the selection of their stock.

Columbian Wyandottes vary in under-colour, and the standard allows it to be so, saying they may be slate, white, or bluish white. This undercolour has much to say in the results which come from the breeding pens. If birds which are dark in under-colour are mated together then an excess of hackle colour is likely to result, with dark splashes and blotches of body colour. On the other hand if only light or white under-colour birds are mated, then although the cockerels may be near the standard the pullets will be too light and washy in hackles. In single mating, therefore, if the cockerel used is dark in under-colour then his mates should not





COLUMBIAN WYANDOTTE COCKEREL.

Winner of many Prizes.

Bred and exhibited by the Rev. J. W. A. Mackenzie, Whitwick.



be dark, or no good cockerels will result from the matting. On the other hand if they are dead white, then the pullets will not have enough marking. This being so, whenever there is dark under-colour on one side, the medium or bluish-white under-colour should be found in the other.

At present Columbians are not what one can call well established, therefore all systems of breeding are more or less of an experimental character, but I think that if breeders will select cockerels or cocks which are sound and clear in top colour, with well defined hackle striping, and of the bluish-white shade in under-colour, and mate them to hens or pullets with well-marked hackles but white in under-colour, that we shall soon find a great improvement, and that it will be possible to breed exhibition specimens from one pen with far greater chances of success than we can to-day. The secret of the whole matter is in the correct use of the under-colour..

In general breed characteristics the Columbian follows all the other varieties, in others, it should approximate to the following. Taking the cockerels first we want the head feather to be a clear silvery white, with neck hackle of the same colour, but each feather to be sharply and distinctly marked down the middle with a rich green-black stripe, this stripe must not extend beyond the centre, the outer edges and tip of each feather must be pure silvery white. The saddle hackle must be white. The tail should be full and of a rich green-black colour, the outer feathers being edged or laced with white, the secondaries should be white on the outer edge and black on the inner, the rest of the body should be pure white, free from blotches or ticking, the under-colour may be white, bluish-white, or grey.

The pullets should follow the cocks in head colour, the neck hackle should be composed of bright green-black feathers entirely surrounded with a silvery white margin. The tail should be rich green-black, with the two top feathers laced with white. The primary wing flights should be black, or black laced with white, and the secondaries white on the outer edge and black on the inner, the rest of the body must be pure white, with the same latitude in under-colour as in the cockerels.

The Columbian Wyandottes, in addition to their handsome exterior, are most excellent utility birds. They are very hardy and vigorous, most excellent foragers,

and on a free grass run will pick up a great part of their keep, thus are a most excellent breed for farmers or those who possess a grass paddock or two. For exhibition purposes they need shade, as the sun and weather has a prejudicial effect upon their delicate and beautiful plumage. All in all the Columbian is one of the best of the Wyandotte family, and deserves to be far more popular than it is.



THE FIRST PILE WYANDOTTES.

Originated by Mr. A. E. Ellett, Waterfall Poultry Farm, Southgate, N.



## CHAPTER XI.

### Other Varieties.

#### THE CUCKOO, PILE, AND BLUE.

I HAVE included these in this chapter because they each stand alone and are very few in number. In plumage appearance the cuckoo resembles the Plymouth Rock, being barred across the feather, thus is totally different to any other member of the Wyandotte family. It is a very handsome bird, but has not made much headway, possibly owing to its resemblance to the Plymouth Rock, many taking it to be nothing more or less than a Rose-combed Rock. In fact, except that they are of Wyandotte shape and have the comb of the Wyandotte they bear little likeness to any member of the family. They are strong hardy birds, and possess all the good utility properties of the other Wyandottes.

The Pile is quite a new variety, and thus far has only been exhibited twice, and on each occasion by myself. I have originated them from a combination of Gold, White, and Partridge blood. Having been produced from a blending of existing members of the Wyandotte family, and not by the introduction of alien blood for the purpose of securing colour and marking, they possess type and the other Wyandotte characteristics of comb, lobe, wattle, legs, etc. The colour aimed at is that of the Pile Game, and I have confidence from the progress already made that in a few years they will approximate to the standard of that breed so far as the desired colour and markings are concerned. It is all a question of proper selection, patience, and time.

Thus far the Pile has shown itself to be equally as good a winter layer as the older established varieties. As a table bird it carries a fair amount of nice juicy meat with very little offal, and has a particularly nice plump breast. As a mother it is one of the best, very quiet and careful when sitting, and most attentive, watchful, and gentle with the chicks. In fact, in the

exercise of its maternal duties the Pile Wyandotte is unsurpassed.

The cockerels should resemble the Partridge cockerels in all respects, except that where the Partridge is black the Pile should be white, and minus hackle striping. The pullets in colour, face, eye, lobes, legs, and beak should match the cockerels, the breast should be of a rich salmon colour shading off towards the thighs, the body, wings, and tail should be a creamy white, as free from red or foxiness as is possible. I have several birds which come very near to the desired colour, but thus far the difficulty has been to keep down the tendency to redness or foxiness. This is only natural, because in the Pile Game breeders still have that difficulty, even though the variety is so old established. In breeding care will have to be exercised to secure the cockerels as pure in their white as possible, and free from lacing or sootiness, and rich in wing colour, whilst the pullets should be very clear in body colour, and sound on breast. Such birds are difficult to find just now, and till we get the breed more established breeders must cover any excess of colour on the one side with a lack of it on the other. Although the general tendency is towards excess of colour, birds do come that show very little colouring, these should prove invaluable for breeding purposes.

The Blue Wyandotte is as yet in a very experimental state, and the fancy is undecided as to what the Blue shall be, some contending for a self colour, whilst others declare such to be impossible of attainment. These latter seek to produce a bird blue in body but possessing dark hackles. The dark hackled birds are richer and deeper in body tone than the clear hackled birds, and the colour is more lasting, whilst many of the lighter coloured birds present a very washed-out looking appearance, and in some cases hardly merit the designation of blue, being neither more nor less than smoky whites. The richer coloured birds present more contrast, therefore, are more pleasing to the eye, and contrasts which blend and harmonise are essentially more beautiful than something which appears to be of one faded hue.

Breeders have used the Andalusian largely in the making of the Blue Wyandotte, and the consequence is that all the birds show more or less lacing. It is possible that by a judicious use of both the White and



Black Wyandotte in the strains of Blue Wyandottes now existent advance would be made in the clearing out of the lacing. From my knowledge of breeding I am inclined to think that little headway will be made with the breed unless those who are interested in its advancement all agree that the birds shall possess dark hackles. Such agreement would remove at once some of the natural difficulties which attend breeding operations.

## CHAPTER XII.

### Judging Wyandottes.

THE following is the standard for Wyandottes as adopted by the Poultry Club, in consultation with the specialist bodies. Reprinted by kind permission of the various specialist clubs.

#### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF COCK.

**HEAD AND NECK.**—Head: Short and broad. Comb: Rose, firm and even on head; full of fine work; low and square at front, tapering towards the spike which should follow the curve of the neck. Face: Smooth and fine in texture. Ear-lobes and Wattles: Medium length, fine in texture. Neck: Medium length, well arched, with full hackle.

**BODY.**—Breast: Full and round, keel bone straight. Back: Broad and short. Saddle: Full and broad, rising with concave sweep to tail. Wings: Medium size, nicely folded to the side.

**TAIL.**—Well developed, spread at base; the true tail feathers carried rather upright; sickles of medium length.

**LEGS AND FEET.**—Thighs: Of medium length, well covered with soft and webless feathers. Fluff: Full and abundant. Shanks: Medium length, strong, but fine in bone. Toes: Four in number, straight and well spread.

**GENERAL SHAPE AND CARRIAGE.**—Graceful and well balanced, resembling a Brahma.

**SIZE AND WEIGHT.**—Rather large. Matured cockerels about 6½lbs. for Buff-laced, 7lbs. other colours; adult cocks about 7½lbs. in Buff-laced, 8½lbs. in other colours.

#### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF HEN.

**HEAD AND NECK.**—Head, Comb, Face, Ear-lobes and Wattles as in the cock, but the appendages smaller. Neck: Medium length, with short full hackle.

**BODY.**—To correspond with that of the cock. Back: Short, and wide at shoulder.

**TAIL.**—Well spread at base.

**LEGS AND FEET.**—As in the cock.

**GENERAL SHAPE AND CARRIAGE.**—To correspond with the cock.

**SIZE AND WEIGHT.**—Pullets 5½lbs. in Buff-laced, 6lbs. in other colours; adult hens 6½lbs. in Buff-laced, 7lbs. in other colours.

#### COLOUR OF SILVER WYANDOTTES.

**IN BOTH SEXES.**—Beak: Horn colour, shading into or tipped with yellow. Eye: Bright bay. Comb, Face, Ear-lobes and Wattles: Bright red. Shanks and Feet: Bright yellow.

**IN THE COCK.**—Head: Silvery white. Neck: Silvery white, with clear black stripe through centre of each feather, free from ticks. Saddle: Hackles to match the neck. Back: Silvery white free from yellow or straw colour. Shoulder Tip: White laced with black. Wing-bow: Silvery white. Wing Coverts: Evenly laced, forming (at least) two well defined bars. Secondaries: Black on inner and wide white stripe on outer web, the edge laced with black. Primaries or Flights: Black on inner web, and broadly laced white on outer edge. Breast and Underparts: The web white, with well defined jet black lacing, free from double or white outer lacing, the lacing regular from throat to back of thighs, showing green lustre. Under-colour: Dark slate. Tail: True tail feathers, sickles and coverts black, showing green lustre. Thighs and Fluff: Black or dark slate, powdered with dark grey, with clear lacing round hocks or outer side of thighs.

**IN THE HEN.**—Head: Silvery white. Neck: Silvery white, with clear black stripe through centre of each feather, free from ticks. Breast and Back: Under-colour dark slate; web white, with regular, well defined jet black lacing, free from double or outer lacing, and showing green lustre. Wings: Same as back on the broad portion. Secondaries and Primaries: As in the cock. Tail: Black, showing green lustre; the coverts black with a white centre to each feather. Thighs and Fluff: Black or dark slate, powdered with dark grey. [N.B.—Regularity of lacing and quality of colour in all cases to count above any particular breadth of lacing.]

## COLOUR OF GOLDEN WYANDOTTES.

IN BOTH SEXES.—Beak: Horn colour, shading into or tipped with yellow. Eye: Bright bay. Comb, Face, Ear-lobes and Wattles: Bright red. Shanks and Feet: Bright yellow.

IN THE COCK.—Head: Rich golden bay. Neck hackle: Rich golden bay with distinct black stripe down the centre of each feather, free from ticks, black outer edging, or black tips. Saddle Hackles: To match the neck. Back: Rich bay, free from black, or from deep maroon. Breast and Wings: Same as Silvers, substituting rich golden bay for white in ground colour. Thighs and Fluff: Black or dark slate, slightly powdered with gold, with clear lacing round hocks and outer side of thighs. [N.B.—Brightness and uniformity of colour to be considered of more value than any particular shade.]

IN THE HEN.—Head: Rich golden bay. Neck Hackle: Rich golden bay, with distinct black stripe down the centre of each feather, free from ticks, black outer edging, or black tips. Breast, Back, Wings, and Tail as in Silvers, substituting rich golden bay for white as the ground colour. Thighs and Fluff: Black or dark slate slightly powdered with gold. [N.B.—Brightness and equality of ground colour, and regularity of lacing throughout, to be of first importance.]

## COLOUR OF WHITE WYANDOTTES.

IN BOTH SEXES.—Beak: Bright yellow. Eye: Bright bay. Comb, Face, Ear-lobes and Wattles: Bright red. Plumage: Pure white throughout: straw colour to be avoided. Legs and Feet: Bright yellow.

## COLOUR OF BLACK WYANDOTTES.

IN BOTH SEXES.—Beak: Rich yellow. Eye: Bright bay. Comb, Ear-lobes and Wattles: Bright red. Legs and Feet: Bright yellow. Plumage: Black, with rich beetle-green sheen. Under-colour: As dark (black) as possible.

## COLOUR OF BUFF WYANDOTTES.

IN BOTH SEXES.—Beak: Rich yellow. Eye: Bright bay. Comb, Face, Ear-lobes and Wattles: Bright red.

**Plumage:** Any shade of buff, from lemon to rich buff, on the one side avoiding washiness, and on the other side a reddish tinge. The colour uniform throughout, allowing for greater lustre on the hackle, saddle, and wing-bow in the case of the cock only. **Legs and Feet:** Bright yellow; toe-nails, white.

#### COLOUR OF BUFF-LACED WYANDOTTES.

**IN BOTH SEXES.**—Beak: Yellow, or horn colour tipped with yellow. Eye: Bright bay. Comb, Face, Ear-lobes and Wattles: Bright red. Legs and Feet: Bright yellow; toe-nails yellow.

**IN THE COCK.**—Head: Rich buff. Neck and Saddle: Rich buff, with white stripe down centre of each feather. Breast and Thighs: Rich buff, with clear and regular white lacing; under-colour white. Back, Shoulders, and Wing-bow: Rich solid buff, of same shade as buff in saddle. Wing-bars: Laced with pure white and well defined. Secondaries: White on the inner web, outer web rich buff laced and white. Tail: Pure white. Fluff and Under-colour: White.

**IN THE HEN.**—Head and Neck, as in cock. Breast, back, and Wings: Rich buff, with regular white lacing. Secondaries: Buff, with neat white lacing on outer web. Fluff: White. Tail: White; the lacing on cushion may continue into the tail coverts.

#### COLOUR OF BLUE-LACED WYANDOTTES.

**IN THE COCK.**—Head: Bright bay, with distinct blue stripe down the centre of each feather, the hackles to be free from black tips and black round the edging. Back and Wings: Rich bay, free from black or smutty blue. Shoulders, Back, and Wing-bow: Rich bay. Wing-bars: Laced blue and well defined. Saddle Hackles: Similar to neck. Breast: Rich bay, with well defined blue lacing, free from double or outer lacing, regular from throat to back of thighs, free from black or smutty lacing. Fluff: Blue, powdered with gold. Tail: Solid blue, free from black or white. Size and Weight: Matured cockerels about 6½lbs., adult cocks 8lbs.

**IN THE HEN.**—Head: Bright bay, with distinct blue stripe down centre of each feather. Breast, Back,

Wing, Thighs, and Cushion : Rich bay, regularly laced, with well defined blue lacing, free from double or outer lacing, the lacing to extend to back of thigh into the fluff. Tail : Solid blue. Size and Weight : Pullet 5½lbs., hens 6½lbs.

#### COLOUR OF PARTRIDGE WYANDOTTES.

**IN BOTH SEXES.**—Beak : Horn colour, shading into or tipped with yellow. Eye : Bright bay. Comb, Face, Ear-lobes and Wattles : Bright red. Legs and Feet : Bright yellow ; toe-nails, horn colour.

**IN THE COCK.**—Head : Rich orange. Neck : Orange or golden red, with paler shade at back, each feather having a glossy black stripe down centre. Back : Rich dark red, free from maroon or purple shade. Saddle : As in neck hackle. Wings : Shoulder rich red, as in the back. Wing-bar : Solid black. Secondaries : Rich bay on outer web, and black on inner web and end of feather, the rich bay alone showing when the wing is closed. Breast : Black, free from ticks. Fluff : Solid black. Tail : Including sickles and tail coverts, glossy, metallic black.

**IN THE HEN.**—Head : Rich orange. Neck : Golden yellow, clearly pencilled. Breast, Back and Wings : A light brown ground colour, free from red or yellow tinge, every feather distinctly and plentifully pencilled with a darker shade. Pencilling, uniform throughout, to follow the form of the feather. A brick or yellow ground colour objectionable. Fluff : Brown (free from yellow or red), slightly pencilled (the more pencilled the better). Tail : True tail feathers black, shading to brown at top, which should be well pencilled.

#### COLOUR OF SILVER-PENCILLED WYANDOTTES.

**IN BOTH SEXES.**—Beak : Horn colour, shading into or tipped with yellow. Eye : Bright bay. Comb, Face, Ear-lobes and Wattles : Bright red. Shanks and Feet : Bright yellow ; toe-nails, horn colour.

**IN THE COCK.**—Head : Silvery white. Neck : Silvery white, each feather having a glossy black stripe running evenly down the centre. Back : Silvery white, free from brown or straw colour, except between the shoulders,

which should correspond with the neck hackle. Saddle: Hackles should match the neck. Wing-bows: Silvery white, as in back. Greater and Lesser Wing Coverts: Forming a distinct bar of glossy greenish-black. Secondaries: Part of outer web forming "Wing-bay," white, remainder of feathers forming "wing-butt," black. Primaries: Black on inner, silver on outer side. Breast: Black free from ticks or lacing. Fluff: Solid black. Tail, including Sickles: Glossy greenish-black.

IN THE HEN.—Head: Silvery white, striped with black. Neck Hackle: Pure silvery white, striped with black. Breast, Back, and Wings: Ground colour steel grey, every feather distinctly and plentifully pencilled with a darker shade. Pencilling uniform throughout, to follow the form of the feather, the bands to be as numerous as possible, and not coarse. Fluff: Same as breast, with as much pencilling as possible. Tail: True feathers black, shading to grey at top, which should be pencilled.

#### COLOUR OF COLUMBIAN WYANDOTTES.

IN BOTH SEXES.—Beak: Yellow or horn coloured. Eye: Bright bay. Comb, Face, Ear-lobes and Wattles: Bright red. Legs and Feet: Yellow or orange-yellow.

IN THE COCK.—Head: Silvery white. Neck Hackle: Silvery white, with a distinct black stripe down the centre of each feather, but the hackles to be free from a black outer edging and black tips. Saddle Hackle: Silvery white. Tail Coverts: Glossy green-black, either laced or not with white. Tail Feathers: Glossy green-black. Primaries: Black, or black edged with white. Secondaries: Black on the inner edge and white on the outer. Rest of Body: Pearly white, entirely free from ticking, the under-colour being either slate, bluish white, or white.

IN THE HEN.—Head: Silvery white. Hackle: Bright intense black feathers entirely surrounded with a silvery white margin. Tail Feathers: Black, except the top pair, which may or may not be laced with white. Primaries: Black, or black edged with white. Secondaries: Black on the inner edge and white on the outer. Rest of Plumage: Pearly white, entirely free from ticking, the under-colour being either slate, bluish white, or white.

## GOLD OR SILVER—COCK OR HEN.

					Deduct up to
Defects in	comb	...	...	...	8
„	head	...	...	...	5
„	ear-lobes and wattles	...	...	...	6
„	neck	...	...	...	8
„	breast	...	...	...	14
„	back	...	...	...	14
„	tail	...	...	...	7
„	wings	...	...	...	12
„	fluff	...	...	...	6
„	legs	...	...	...	6
Want of size and condition ...					14
A perfect bird to count ...					100

## BUFF-LACED—THE COCK.

Defects in	head and comb	...	...	8
„	ear-lobes and wattles	...	...	6
„	neck and saddle	...	...	13
„	breast and thighs	...	...	20
„	back and wings	...	...	12
„	tail	...	...	15
„	fluff and under-colour	...	...	10
„	legs	...	...	5
Want of size and condition ...				11
A perfect bird to count ...				100

## BUFF-LACED—THE HEN.

Defects in	head and comb	...	...	8
„	ear-lobes and wattles	...	...	6
„	breast	...	...	20
„	back	...	...	15
„	tail	...	...	15
„	wings	...	...	10
„	fluff	...	...	10
„	legs	...	...	5
Want of size and condition...				11
A perfect bird to count ...				100



## BLUE-LACED—THE COCK.

						Deduct up to
Defects in	comb	...	...	...	...	8
"	head	...	...	...	...	3
"	ear-lobes and wattles	...	...	...	...	6
"	neck	...	...	...	...	8
"	breast	...	...	...	...	20
"	back	...	...	...	...	13
"	wings	...	...	...	...	13
"	tail	...	...	...	...	13
"	fluff	...	...	...	...	10
"	legs	...	...	...	...	5
Want of size and condition...						12
A perfect bird to count ...						100

## BLUE-LACED—THE HEN.

Defects in	comb	...	...	...	...	5
"	ear-lobes and wattles	...	...	...	...	5
"	neck	...	...	...	...	8
"	breast	...	...	...	...	25
"	back	...	...	...	...	12
"	wings	...	...	...	...	10
"	tail	...	...	...	...	8
"	fluff	...	...	...	...	10
"	legs	...	...	...	...	5
Want of size and condition...						12
A perfect bird to count ...						100

## WHITES—COCK OR HEN.

Defects in	comb	...	...	...	...	8
"	head	...	...	...	...	6
"	ear-lobes and wattles	...	...	...	...	8
"	neck	...	...	...	...	10
"	back	...	...	...	...	10
"	body	...	...	...	...	12
"	wings	...	...	...	...	10
"	tail	...	...	...	...	8
"	legs	...	...	...	...	8
Want of size and condition...						20
A perfect bird to count ...						100

## BLACK—COCK OR HEN.

					Deduct up to
Defects in	comb	...	...	...	10
„	head	...	...	...	5
„	shape	...	...	...	20
„	colour	...	...	...	20
„	under-colour	...	...	...	15
„	legs	...	...	...	10
„	size	...	...	...	12
„	condition	...	...	...	8
A perfect bird to count ...					100

## BUFFS—COCK OR HEN.

Defects in	comb	...	...	...	8
„	head	...	...	...	5
„	ear-lobes and wattles	...	...	...	8
„	neck	...	...	...	4
„	breast	...	...	...	5
„	back	...	...	...	6
„	wings	...	...	...	5
„	tail	...	...	...	5
„	fluff	...	...	...	4
„	colour	...	...	...	30
„	legs	...	...	...	6
Want of size and condition...					14
A perfect bird to count ...					100

## PARTRIDGE—THE COCK.

Defects in	comb	...	...	...	8
„	head	...	...	...	5
„	ear-lobes and wattles	...	...	...	6
„	neck	...	...	...	12
„	breast	...	...	...	10
„	back	...	...	...	12
„	wings	...	...	...	10
„	tail	...	...	...	7
„	fluff	...	...	...	8
„	legs	...	...	...	8
Want of size and condition...					14
A perfect bird to count ...					100

## PARTRIDGE—THE HEN.

					Deduct up to
Defects in comb	...	...	...	...	6
„ head	...	...	...	...	5
„ ear-lobes and wattles	...	...	...	...	6
„ neck	...	...	...	...	8
„ breast	...	...	...	...	13
„ back	...	...	...	...	13
„ wings	...	...	...	...	13
„ tail	...	...	...	...	7
„ fluff	...	...	...	...	7
„ legs	...	...	...	...	8
Want of size and condition...	...	...	...	...	14

A perfect bird to count ... 100

## SILVER-PENCILLED—THE COCK.

Defects in comb	...	...	...	...	8
„ head	...	...	...	...	4
„ ear-lobes and wattles	...	...	...	...	6
„ neck	...	...	...	...	11
„ breast	...	...	...	...	11
„ back	...	...	...	...	11
„ wings	...	...	...	...	11
„ tail	...	...	...	...	7
„ fluff	...	...	...	...	10
„ legs	...	...	...	...	8
Want of size and condition...	...	...	...	...	13

A perfect bird to count ... 100

## SILVER-PENCILLED—THE HEN.

Defects in comb and head	...	...	...	...	4
„ ear-lobes and wattles	...	...	...	...	4
„ hackle	...	...	...	...	10
„ breast	...	...	...	...	16
„ back and wings...	...	...	...	...	13
„ cushion	...	...	...	...	10
„ leg colour	...	...	...	...	10
„ fluff	...	...	...	...	4
„ tail	...	...	...	...	5
„ shape	...	...	...	...	10
Want of size and condition...	...	...	...	...	14

A perfect bird to count ... 100

Serious defects for which birds should be passed: Any feathers on shanks or toes. Permanent white or yellow in ear-lobes, covering more than one-third of their surface. Combs other than rose, or falling over on one side, or so large as to obstruct the sight. Wry tails. Deformed backs. Crooked backs. Shanks other than yellow in colour (except adult cocks and hens, which may shade to light straw colour). Feathers other than white in Whites; white in tail or any conspicuous spotting or peppering on ground of the feathers in Silvers and Gold; black in tail, or any excess of blue or grey in lacing, of Buff-laced.





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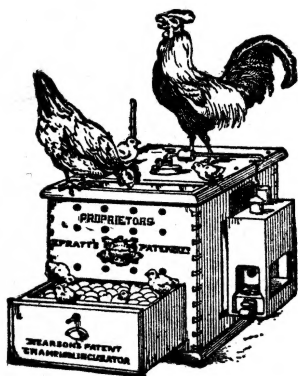
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